



Jordan Times

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Israel wants Palestinian radio in Jericho

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel told the Palestinian authority on Sunday they must set up their radio station in the autonomous enclave of Jericho and not in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah, as planned. The head of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), Radwan Abu Ayash, told AFP he had asked for an official meeting after the Israelis notified him of their decision. The PBC had intended to set the studios in Ramallah where a pre-1967 transmitter and radio masts are being renovated. "Now we cannot have the studios in Ramallah," Mr. Abu Ayash said. The town is not part of the autonomous areas. "They have to be in Jericho or Gaza, only the transmission will be in Ramallah. We asked for a meeting to discuss this officially. We prefer to have the studios in Ramallah," he stressed. However, the Palestinians had managed to get radio equipment donated by Germany out of Israeli customs without paying duty after a three-week battle, Mr. Abu Ayash said.

Tzur opposes return of Jordan's land

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli official warned Sunday that a handover of land to Jordan as part of a border accord could spell disaster for several communities deprived of water. "Without their sources of water in the region, the communities would suffer a death blow," warned Gidon Tzur, head of the water department at Israel's agriculture ministry. "These sources are already being pumped to the maximum and we must make sure that the supply of water continues even if the (occupied) land passes over to the Jordanian side," he told AFP. Mr. Tzur said 35 kibbutzim and cooperative villages in the Wadi Araba region used around 40 million cubic metres of water per year, more than a third coming from the occupied land. The sources would be lost "if Israel responds entirely to the Jordanian demands," he said. Israel and Jordan are due to meet in Washington on Monday for bilateral talks on the border issue (see analysis below).

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5 GCC states imply recognition of split Yemen; Aden refinery hit

Combined agency dispatches

FIVE GULF Arab countries on Sunday edged towards recognition of the breakaway southern state in neighbouring Yemen, putting pressure on Sanaa to accept a ceasefire in the month-old Yemeni war.

On the civil war front, southern Yemen accused the north's air force of attacking the country's only oil refinery near Aden Sunday, setting a fuel tank ablaze, amid signs a U.N.-urged ceasefire would not be implemented.

A military communiqué broadcast by Aden Radio said three northern warplanes that took part in a morning air raid on the refinery, on the western outskirts of Aden, were shot down. A fourth aircraft fled. But Sanaa denied its jets had attacked the oil facility. The northern Defence Ministry said southern forces deliberately blasted the refinery with a missile "in order to destroy it, arouse public opinion and evoke an increased sense of grudge and hatred among the sons of the one Yemeni homeland."

The northern statement, broadcast on Sanaa's Radio, said: "This refinery and other economic installations are the property of the Yemeni people and will never be a target of the forces of unity and legitimacy."

Meeting in Abha, Saudi Arabia, foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) termed as "a fait accompli" the declaration by one of the parties of the Yemeni Democratic Republic (YDR) and the return to the situation "before the country was unified in 1990."

"These two parties will only be able to maintain relations within the framework of unity through peaceful means," they said, in apparent criticism of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The president, a northerner, has vowed to fight to keep the country's four-year-old unity, although Sanaa reacted in favour of a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire.

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Jordan denies Beidh's charge that it sent arms to northern Yemen

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Sunday categorically denied allegations by southern Yemeni leaders that the Kingdom was supplying arms and military spare parts to the forces of Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

"These allegations are not true, we regret that they were made," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told the Jordan Times.

Southern Yemeni leader Ali Salem Al Beidh said in remarks published by the Dubai-based Al Khaleej newspaper on Sunday that he has confirmed information that the Kingdom was supplying weapons to Sanaa. Reuters news agency quoted him as telling the paper that he "did not expect such a stand from Jordan."

The allegations were repeated in Cairo by Haidar Abu Baker Al Attas, prime minister of the breakaway "Yemen Democratic Republic," which was formed after Aden seceded from the Republic of Yemen on May 21.

Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times that the Kingdom sent civilian aircraft with humanitarian assistance to Yemen and evacuated third country nationals when all other airlines stopped flying to the Arabian Peninsula country.

But when insurance premiums on flights to Yemen rose to \$500,000, the Kingdom flew military planes to the country for the same humanitarian purposes. "We took the risk and (the flights) were made before the eyes of the whole world," he said.

"This is the stand of Jordan and there is no room for accepting (Mr. Beidh's) allegations."

Dr. Anani said Jordan supports the "legitimacy in Yemen which was chosen by the Yemeni people without the interference of anybody."

"We cannot accept (the southern leaders') accusations," said Dr. Anani, noting that Jordan had mediated in its capacity as a neutral party in the Yemeni conflict at the request of both Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh, before the crisis erupted into war on May 4.

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Majali briefs Parliament on peace talks and regional events

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali on Sunday reviewed in a closed meeting with members of the Lower House of Parliament several domestic and foreign issues and the government's stand on them.

These included the peace process, Jordan's relations with the Palestinians, Syria and Egypt, the Kingdom's stand on the situation in Yemen, public freedoms and administrative issues, according to House Speaker Taher Al Masri.

Mr. Masri told reporters following the meeting that of the most important issues discussed at the meeting was Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

The prime minister under-

lined the importance of these relations and Jordan's keenness to coordinate with the Palestinians, said Mr. Masri. He added that Dr. Majali, who was not really satisfied with the level of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian cause despite obstacles facing it.

The prime minister, Mr. Masri said, lauded Jordanian-Egyptian relations and affirmed that the recent meetings of the two countries' joint committee had helped enhance these relations.

Dr. Majali also commended Jordan's relations with Syria



Dr. Abdul Salam Majali

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Government hopes raise in pay will boost performance

Economy better this year — Gammoh

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government's decision to raise by 10 per cent the basic salaries of civil servants aims at improving the living conditions of government employees and giving them incentive towards better and more productive work, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Sunday.

Speaking at a meeting held at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), Dr. Majali said the government was also seeking reform in its public administration system and improve the performance of employees.

Dr. Majali's statement came less than 24 hours after the government's announcement that the 437,000 serving gov-

ernment workers, military personnel and pensioners will get a raise of 10 per cent that would not be less than JD 10 per month. The increase takes effect on July 1, 1994.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said the decision was taken to give the civil servants a raise "within the government's financial means." But, he added, a special committee of experts is continuing to study other measures intended to improve government employees' conditions and raise their efficiency and performance.

Mr. Gammoh told a press conference on Sunday that the government hoped the com-

mittee would end its study and submit recommendations to the government in the next few months.

Another committee had been entrusted with studying matters related to state-owned lands on which government housing units could be set up to benefit government employees, he said. This committee would finish its work soon so that the government can sell the lands to the employees who would be given long-term soft loans provided by the state, the minister said.

Mr. Gammoh said that while the 10 per cent increase benefits government civil and

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Violence continues in Nablus, Ramallah

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers wounded four Palestinians on Sunday as violence flared in the mosque massacre town of Hebron in Ramallah, Palestinian sources said.

A curfew which had been lifted on Hebron after 37 Palestinians and four Israeli soldiers were injured during trouble on Saturday was quickly reimposed Sunday.

Two Palestinians were lightly wounded by rubber bullets after stones were thrown at troops in the centre of Hebron, the sources said.

And clashes rumbled on in Ramallah where youths pelted rocks at soldiers who opened fire wounding two youths, witnesses said.

The violence in Ramallah erupted after undercover agents shot dead two wanted fighters from the Islamic Resistance Movement last Tuesday.

In Hebron, observers from the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), deployed after the February massacre of more than 30 Muslim worshippers by a Jewish settler, monitored the troubles.

In West Bank town of Bethlehem, another Palestinian was wounded when police opened fire on youths lobbing rocks at the police station, witnesses said.

Police caught a Gazan who entered Israel intending to carry home in plastic bags the heads of two of his former neighbours who collaborated with the army.

He got as far as the Tel Aviv flat of one of the men who managed to alert the security services, police spokesman Dorn Gadi said.

The youth from Jabaliya refugee camp said Hamas had threatened to kill him if he did not bring the two heads.

The would-be executioner, who was not named, was sent back to Gaza.

The report came after the new Palestinian police demanded that Hamas hand over the men who hanged two alleged collaborators in Gaza two weeks ago. Hamas has refused. Israel has granted nationality and refuge to several hundred families who collaborated during the occupation. Many are armed and equipped with distress warning systems linked in the security services.

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PLO says no cash for self-rule body

CAIRO (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) needs money fast to complete its take over in self-rule areas of Jericho and Gaza, but donors have been slow to respond, a top Palestinian official said on Sunday.

"The international community is moving very, very slowly (and) part of it is the World Bank talking about appropriate measures and institutions... but if we are going to create these institutions we need some bridging measures until (they) are built," PLO official Nabil Shaath told Reuters.

Dr. Shaath, who holds the economy and planning portfolio in the new Palestinian National Authority, spoke after Israel said PLO leader Yasser Arafat should stop "playing the beggar and the whiner" and set to work on the problems of the Palestinian self-rule zones.

Mr. Arafat told a U.S. television network in an interview that his expected return to Jericho would be cancelled unless international donors made good on their pledges of \$2.4 billion over five years from the Palestinian National Authority.

Asked if he would return to Jericho as expected, Mr. Arafat said: "No, I am not ready to deceive my people... I am sorry to say that the Israeli occupation had destroyed all the infrastructure — housing, schools, hospitals, roads, sewage."

"It's about time Mr. Arafat stopped playing the beggar and the whiner and got down to work on the problems there."

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Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said.

Israel had expected him to go to Jericho on June 15.

Dr. Shaath said the PLO has so far received \$7 million in aid and expected five million ECUs (\$5.8 million) to come from the European Union (EU) soon.

"We don't yet have the money that is needed to run the administration efficiently. The \$7 million we've got will barely cover us until the end of June. The five million ECUs (to come) from the EU (will last a) maximum another month," he said.

Dr. Shaath said funds were not sufficient to finance the self-rule areas which will be run by the PLO under the deal signed with Israel in Washington last September.

"We have to build all these institutions but where from? We have to bring in 7,000 policemen... who is going to pay for them? These people are coming without salaries, with nothing," Dr. Shaath said.

He said the Israelis had left the self-rule areas in a shambles. Palestinian policemen have moved in as Israeli forces have moved out but a shortage of funds has hampered development and some police have been forced to sleep on floors.

"This is a very unusual situation in which the Israelis have pulled out of Gaza and Jericho and left a catastrophe. One has never seen a British or a French ex-colony left with such

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New Israeli group seeks to curb land 'concessions'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Hawks in Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party launched a lobbying group on Sunday to limit the amount of land Israel will cede in a peace deal with the Arabs.

Organisers said at least three cabinet ministers and Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur was to lend support to "The Third Way" at its formal inauguration later on Sunday, the anniversary of the start of the 1967 Middle East war.

Mr. Gur said the group offered an alternative to dovish calls for returning all land seized in the war and the hardline "not-one-inch" approach.

"What happened in the last period is a feeling took root in the public that there is no way out but to return to the 1967 borders and create a Palestinian state. We are saying no — there is also a third way," Mr. Gur told army radio.

The "Third Way" supports the Middle East peace process but demands that Israel maintain control of the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley, "Greater" Jerusalem and West Bank settlements away from built-up Palestinian areas.

Numerous pragmatists from the right-wing opposition Likud Party and "hawks" from the Labour Party as well as far-right wingers have announced their backing for the Third Way.

Among them are Likud's Yossi Peled and Gonen Segev of the hardline Tsomet as well as a gaggle of retired generals.

Israeli political analyst Hanan Crystal said the lobby could strengthen Mr. Rabin's hand in negotiations with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad

by bolstering an Israeli refusal to give back all of the strategic Golan Heights. "If Rabin will say tomorrow he signed an agreement with Assad on (giving back) all of the Golan, most will go with him," Mr. Crystal said.

Third Way spokesman Itamar Marcus said up to 19 of 44 Labour Party Knesset (parliament) members and hundreds of central committee members were expected at the founding assembly. Almost all are in Mr. Rabin's hawkish camp within the party.

Israel's Haaretz newspaper said 70 rightist opposition Likud Party members would attend. Likud Party spokesman Tsavik Hauser said he believed only a few disgruntled members would come.

The group will lobby against far-reaching "territorial compromise on the Golan," which is at the centre of a deadlock in Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

On the West Bank and East Jerusalem, the group's platform closely resembles the Alon plan, developed by late Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Alon after the 1967 war.

Alon advocated return of Palestinian population centres in the West Bank and Gaza while Israel kept control of the Jordan Valley rift and a large swath of territory around Jerusalem.

The founders hope to offset a public impression based on Israel's peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) that Mr. Rabin's hawkish nucleus has somehow lost ground in Labour to a

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Tourism minister adopts bold move to downgrade Aqaba hotels

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan has decided to reclassify hotels in Aqaba as a step towards improving the quality of service in the country's tourism industry, according to ministry sources.

The sources told the Jordan Times Sunday that Dr. Adwan has agreed on a suggestion made by the ministry's Tourism Coordination Committee to reclassify some hotels in Aqaba, one of the country's main tourist attractions, because both the infrastructure and the services offered by the hotels concerned were not on par with their ratings based on the ministry's rating system.

"Although this decision will be met with disapproval by the hotel owners, the minister believes that it is a necessary and long overdue measure to encourage those in the hotel business to improve their customer services



Mohammad Adwan

in terms of prices and facilities," said the source.

A list of the new classifications was made available to the Jordan Times.

According to the list, the Gulf Hotel would be the only facility to retain its four-star rating.

The Holiday Hotel and the Coral Beach Hotel, two Aqaba beachfront establish-

ments, were downgraded from four to three star hotels, and the Aqaba Alcazar and Miramar hotels dropped from ratings of three to two stars.

The Aqua Marina 1 Hotel, also on the beach, was not reclassified and retained its three-star rating.

According to a study conducted by the Tourism Coordination Committee, the reclassification of the five hotels will mean a reduction of 70 per cent on the cost of services for foreign tourists and Jordanians who use these hotels.

Moreover, this measure will automatically encourage the tourism movement in Aqaba during the off season, said the source.

Nevertheless, the ministry's tourism industry promotion campaign continues its efforts to provide the proper facilities and remove all obstacles to investors in the tourism industry in the direction of profitable and honest

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Jordan seen confident of securing its border, water rights

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Talks scheduled to start Monday between Jordan and Israel in Washington could be the prelude for substantial and fast progress on the Jordanian-Israeli track of the Arab-Israeli peace process, well-informed sources said.

The confident tone in which Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani announced the talks Saturday indicated that the government had received signals from Israel that it was willing to move ahead in negotiating its borders with the Kingdom, said a seasoned analyst who held a number of cabinet

portfolios in the past.

Another source close to the peace talks told the Jordan Times that in light of the progress and movement attained on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks respectively, Jordan could not afford to be left behind because that would put it in a weak bargaining position.

"If everybody reaches an agreement, we will not get any concessions from Israel and will be left behind" in an awkward position, especially that coordination among the Arab parties to the talks is well below the needed level, the source told the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. That, he said, might have prompted Jordan to

take the necessary steps to accelerate its negotiations with the Jewish state.

The issue that will be discussed today by three separate teams are also an indication that Jordan and Israel will break new grounds in their first direct negotiations since February when Arab parties froze the negotiations in reaction to the Hebron massacre, the sources said.

Jordanian negotiators have repeatedly said that their talks with Israel were bogged down by Israel's refusal to demarcate its borders with the Kingdom. Jordan, meanwhile, has rejected to talk about economic cooperation and development before Israel recognised its

sovereignty over its occupied lands and returned its share of water in the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers.

That the two countries are going to discuss borders, the issue of water and economic development is an indication that they have reached a compromise on the course of the negotiations, the sources said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The confidence in which Dr. Anani announced the resumption of the negotiations suggests that there has been a "positive development" and that the minister acted on information that Israel was

finally willing to negotiate the borders, and eventually reach agreement on it, one of the sources told the Jordan Times.

As far as Jordan is concerned, it has to move ahead with the talks in order to catch up with progress made on the Palestinian track and with the rapid movement on the Syrian front so that it will not find itself marginalised and weakened.

But the Kingdom's commitment to a comprehensive peace and its rejection of a separate peace treaty will assure Syria that it has nothing to fear from progress in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, the source said.

With the Palestine Libera-

tion Organisation (PLO) moving alone and without prior coordination with Jordan in its talks with Israel, and with Syrian-Israeli talks proceeding through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Jordan could afford, and needs to, move ahead with its track of the negotiations, the sources agreed.

To support his expectation of a fast progress, one of the sources noted the little significance of the water and border issues to the Israeli public opinion which would not make the Israeli government worried about making concessions on them.

He said any agreement on

water that might entail an Israeli concession will not be immediately felt by the Israeli public. Nor would withdrawal from occupied Jordanian land provoke the resentment of Israelis and put pressure on the government because most of this land is not even inhabited by Israelis.

The decision by Israel and Jordan to drop the issues of refugees from Monday's negotiations, which will be headed by Jordanian Ambassador to Washington Fayez Tarawneh and chief Israeli delegate to talks with Jordan Eliahu Rubenstein, also suggests that the two countries are set to achieve real

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Egypt police hold 10 Brotherhood members

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egyptian police have detained 10 leaders of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and plan to hold them for 15 days for questioning, Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali said Sunday.

He told the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram the men were rounded up "a few days ago" on charges of hampering the execution of court rulings. He refused to identify the men and did not specify the charges.

Although the Muslim Brotherhood was banned in 1954, it has been largely tolerated by the Egyptian government because of its non-violent stance.

Some of its members have in the past joined parliament in coalition with other parties.

But the government has lost patience with the group after it took part in rallies last month protesting the death of lawyer Abdul Hareth Madani, who died while in police custody.

Four members were also arrested last month for allegedly distributing anti-government leaflets. Brotherhood leader Hamad Abu Nasr was questioned on Sunday on the same charges, after answering a summons.

Militants have been waging a two-year campaign to topple the government of President Hosni Mubarak in which close to 400 people have been killed.

On Sunday, a group of militants, shouting defiance, went on trial in a military court on charges of trying to blow up Interior Minister Ali last year.

"Where is the law you are judging us by? God is our only judge. We know that the final verdict will be decided by the interior minister," said one of the 14 defendants behind bars.

Three others are on the run

and are being tried in absentia.

Defending lawyers complained to presiding Judge Wagdi Al Laithi they had not seen any of the indictment papers.

The judge read the charges against the 17 defendants and adjourned the case until June 12. If convicted, the men could face the death penalty.

Gen. Ali escaped death in central Cairo on Aug. 18 last year when a bomb exploded just before his motorcade passed. The explosion killed two militants and three civilians.

The men sang Islamic songs and shouted anti-government slogans from behind barred cages. Some of them lifted their garments to show what they said were signs of torture.

"It's a good thing we are still in our right minds. We always will be, no matter what those despots do to us," shouted Mohammad Rashad Hegazy.

Many of the men were visibly moved after the eight-year-old son of one of their co-defendants burst into tears when he saw his father behind bars.

The father, Masoud Al Aref Taleh, says he was being treated for a mental illness before he was arrested and that torture at the hands of his interrogators worsened his condition.

When he was taken from the cage to present a medical certificate to the judge his son ran to hug him.

There were two categories of men kept in cages in the courtroom in the heart of a barracks in the suburb of Helipolis.

Seven men who were dressed in white robes are alleged members of the militant group Jihad, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.



Relatives of Egyptian militant suspects attend the trial on Sunday of 17 alleged members of an underground group in Cairo (AFP)

Yemeni war in stalemate one month on

By Jean-Endes Barbier
Agence France Presse

DUBAI — One month into Yemen's civil war there are no signs of a let-up in the fighting, with northern troops poised outside the southern bastion of Aden despite international efforts to impose a ceasefire.

Since the war erupted on May 5 President Ali Abdullah Saleh has been caught in a dilemma, desperately wanting to crush what he sees as a southern rebellion while preventing the conflict from becoming an issue on the international arena.

Mr. Saleh's troops, numerically superior to forces loyal to southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh, have advanced slowly but surely in their push towards Aden.

Yet despite inflicting heavy losses on their rivals, the north has met continued strong resistance from the south which has taken to the skies mounting wave after wave of air attacks to beat back northern advances.

The south has also launched repeated Scud missile attacks on Sanaa, in a bid to hit back at

northern leaders.

Crossing over the mountains, northern units found themselves exposed on vast, open plains stretching south towards Aden.

They opened up two new fronts to the west and east in a bid to squeeze the port in a pincer movement with fighting now raging in a 60 kilometre to 100 kilometre sweep around the city.

On Friday Mr. Saleh's men were reported to be only 15 kilometres north of Aden, with the city firmly within range of its heavy artillery.

Clashes were also going on close to Bir Nasser about 20 kilometres from Aden, where the main drinking water supplies are piped to the port's 500,000 residents.

The south said Saturday 80,000 people had been killed, wounded or made homeless by the fighting. And although there has been no independent toll, correspondents have reported that Aden hospitals are overflowing.

Away from the battlefields rival north and south leaders have engaged in a war of words, with neither side showing concrete signs of wanting to

start peace negotiations.

Even if Aden falls, diplomats in the region fear that it will not signal an end to the fighting and southern aspirations to set up an independent state.

Southern leaders could just retreat to the town of Mukalla, 700 kilometres further east to rejoin Mr. Beidh who slipped out of Aden several weeks ago, they say.

It was from Mukalla that Mr. Beidh declared the creation of the independent Yemen Democratic Republic on May 21, shattering four years of uneasy union between the former conservative North and the Marxist South.

The south has continued to set in place its new state, with the announcement on Thursday of its own government showing no signs of going back on its declaration of independence.

And despite northern threats not to become embroiled in Yemen's "internal affairs", the international community and Yemen's neighbours have grown increasingly concerned by the prolonged conflict.

A U.N. Security Council re-

solution adopted Wednesday called for an immediate ceasefire and the opening of talks between the warring parties.

The Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Cairo also backed the U.N. Security Council's ceasefire call and urged the northern and southern rivals to settle their differences peacefully.

Northern leaders, like their southern rivals, have said they accept the terms of the U.N. resolution but have continued to insist on preserving Yemen's unity.

Although no country has officially recognised the breakaway south, many Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, have shown a certain sympathy for the south's position maintaining that Yemen's crisis cannot be solved through force.

There are signs too that neighbouring countries could be dragged into the conflict with the south saying it may call on Saudi troops for help, and pleading with the Gulf Cooperation Council in a message to intervene "to save the Yemeni people, stop the fighting and put an end to the bloodshed."

Iran, Syria counselling restraint in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Iran and Syria were reported Sunday trying to forestall a full-blown war between Israel and South Lebanon over the deadliest Israeli raid in a year.

Official Lebanese sources said Syria, Lebanon's main power-broker, and Iran, the patron of Shiite fundamentalism in Lebanon, advised Hizbollah to stop firing missiles on Israel.

The sources said they had no word on Hizbollah's response. But they noted that there had been no Katyusha missile strikes on northern Israel since Friday morning.

The joint move came after the United States urged all Middle Eastern parties involved to exercise restraint and avert further threats to the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the advice was made during Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's trip to Damascus on Saturday.

Mr. Velayati met with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa and then with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. Both sides publicly declared support for Lebanon against Israel's "escalating aggression."

But the sources said that during a meeting at the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Mr. Velayati urged restraint in talks with Hizbollah's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah and the party's political bureau chief Sheikh Naim Kasseas.

Hizbollah guerrillas un-

leashed 60 Katyushas that crashed in northern Israel and an enclave Israel occupies as a "security zone" in South Lebanon to avenge Israel's air raid Thursday on a Hizbollah training base in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Up to 50 people, most of them young Shiite guerrilla trainees, were killed in the air assault on the camp at Ein Kawkab near Lebanon's border with Syria.

It was the highest toll from a single air raid since Israel's weeklong air, sea and artillery blitz last July in which 147 people were killed and 500 wounded.

That onslaught was halted by a U.S.-brokered truce which contained an understanding that Hizbollah would refrain from firing rockets on Israel's northern flank.

Hizbollah's Katyusha strikes Thursday and Friday caused no casualties or serious damage in Israel or the self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

But Israel government said military leaders branded the attacks a violation to the U.S.-sponsored understanding, rushed tank and artillery reinforcements to the border with Lebanon and threatened severe reprisals if the missile attacks continued.

There have since been minor skirmishes between Hizbollah and Israel's South Lebanon Army surrogate militia in which three guerrillas were killed. But the hostilities remained within the rules of the game.

Turkish government under fire for virginity exams

ANKARA (AP) — An international human rights organisation has condemned the Turkish government for ignoring the common but illegal practice of virginity exams for unmarried women in police custody, applying for government jobs and other situations.

Virginity exams are most commonly conducted on women in police custody, the New York-based Human Rights Watch said in a report released Saturday. Such exams have also been forced on hospital patients, students living in dormitories and applicants for government jobs, the report said.

The report noted that female virginity is identified in Turkey with family or male honour, and that a woman's right to control over her own body is secondary.

Relatives of a newly married Turkish couple still wait outside the bedroom on their wedding night to see if the sheets are stained with blood, the traditional sign the bride was a virgin. If she fails the test, the bride is sent back to her father's house.

Human Rights Watch urged Turkish medical workers to help stop virginity exams, and called on the Turkish government to denounce the practice.

Its report, "A Matter of Power: State Control of Women's Virginity in Turkey" carried dozens of personal accounts, including women who described the exams as degrading and painful.

The report alleged the government "denies or dismisses the problem. Even when government and medical officials acknowledge such abuse, they often blame families for the problem and attribute the abusive practice to traditional culture norms."

"The Turkish authorities' involvement in, or tolerance of, compulsory virginity control exams violates... Turkey's obligations to guarantee its citizens equal protection under law," it said.

Two high school students committed suicide in 1992 after school authorities ordered them to submit to virginity control exams, the report said. If a female student is found to be no longer a virgin, she is expelled from school.

Commenting on the report, a prominent Turkish woman author, Ayta Kutun, said the virginity issue will continue to cause tragic results as long as "women are always treated as a sexual object... which belongs to either her family or to her husband."

Turkey's first female prime minister, Tansu Ciller, has not publicly commented on virginity exams, and government officials could not be reached for comment on the Human Rights Watch report Saturday.

But when the two high school committed suicide, Women's Affairs Minister Turkkan Akkol vowed to do "everything I can on this subject."

"All of the officials who dare to create these incidents will be punished," she said. "I find this very ugly, very humiliating."

Human Rights Watch said despite the minister's remarks, "the Turkish government has failed adequately both to prohibit the use of forcible virginity control exams, including by its police, or to punish those state agents who engage in it."

The report also said women in police custody have been raped, stripped and otherwise sexually abused. It said police arbitrarily harass unmarried women, accusing them of prostitution, and raid hotel rooms where unmarried couples are registered.

Unheard evidence links Iraq to Bush murder plot

KUWAIT (R) — The six men condemned to death for trying to kill former U.S. President George Bush emerged at their trial as the inept agents of an Iraqi plot on the life of Kuwait's Gulf war hero.

"These are going to make great characters in a spy novel," a Western diplomat said sardonically. "They look like a bunch of small time hoodlums and losers and pathetic personalities."

"But Iraq saw this as a no-lose situation. They figured at worst, they'd manage to set off something, and it had great demerit — just a bunch of smugglers," he added.

Kuwait's state security court on Saturday sentenced five Iraqis and one Kuwaiti to death for trying to blow up Mr. Bush on his April 14-16 visit to Kuwait to commemorate his leadership in the 1991 Gulf war that ended Iraq's seven-month occupation.

It also sentenced seven others to various jail terms and acquitted one Kuwaiti. The sentences were handed down almost a year after the trial began.

During the last session on April 2 defence lawyers said

the testimony of the sole prosecution witness, State Security Colonel Abdul Samad Al Shatti, was based on assumptions.

The evidence, described as circumstantial but compelling by U.S. investigators, includes forensic material linking the car-bomb found in Kuwait to two Iraqi bombs discovered in the Middle East during the Gulf crisis. Western diplomatic sources said.

They said anyone looking for a weak point in the case ought to focus on the evident amateurishness of the suspects dubbed by one U.S. official as "the gang who couldn't shoot straight."

Asked for details of that evidence — a large part of which was not heard in court — the diplomatic sources said it fell into three categories. The first two were confessions from two of the accused and physical evidence of the car-bomb itself.

"While we take an agnostic position on the confessions themselves... we are very confident that those two categories as a whole hang together," one source said.

The third category was what he called evidence from covert sources. "If we hadn't had those outside independent sources we might not have thought there was so much to it."

The type of explosives used in the car-bomb and the type of timing and detonation devices were similar to those found in two bombs linked to Iraqi intelligence and uncovered during the Gulf crisis in late 1990, the sources said.

A source said the bomb in the group's Toyota had three separate detonation devices — a remote control device, a timer device and a physical switch for use on a "suicide basis."

"Would alcohol smugglers have this kind of explosives, that kind of sophistication?" one of the sources asked.

The United States launched a cruise missile attack on Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad on June 27 after saying it had found compelling evidence Iraq was involved in the plot. At least six people were killed when some missiles went astray.

"The FBI questioning was far more detailed than the trial questioning," one of the sources said.

Asked why much of the evidence was not heard in court, one diplomatic source said Kuwait had not asked for access to U.S. forensic evidence linked to events outside Kuwait.

U.S. investigative journalist Seymour Hersh wrote in New Yorker magazine on Nov. 1, the case against Baghdad was based merely on circumstantial evidence. He said a remote control firing device found in the car-bomb said to have an Iraqi "signature" was in fact an unmodified mass-produced item.

Iraqi defendant Wali Al Ghazali claimed he was instructed by Iraqi intelligence to blow up Mr. Bush. Co-defendant Raad Al Saadi said he was told by Iraqi intelligence to help Mr. Ghazali set bombs but denied knowledge of any assassination plot.

The other defendants denied the charges, saying they were only alcohol smugglers.

Iraq says Kuwait and the United States fabricated the plot to try to tighten economic sanctions against Baghdad.

'King' of anti-Zionists to visit Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Holy City will witness one of the more bizarre events in Jewish life on Tuesday when huge crowds turn out to give a royal welcome to the "king" of the anti-Zionists.

"This will be the biggest welcome in Jerusalem since King David moved his capital here from Hebron (997 B.C.)," claimed Yehuda Meshi-Zehav, one of the organisers of the visit.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat could hardly expect better if he reaches Jericho as planned to a couple of weeks.

When the Rebbe Moshe Teitelbaum steps off a plane at Ben Gurion airport the leaders of the ultra-orthodox "Samar" community in the Holy Land will be queuing up on the tarmac to salute him.

Four other charter planes will follow bringing in 2,000 believers from the United States, 350 of whom won a raffle for a seat on the rebbe's aircraft.

He will be whisked to occupied Jerusalem in a limousine chauffeured by a millionaire New York Hasid who has shelled out a reported \$500,000 to cover all costs.

The money has paid for two other limousines, 120 more rental cars and all the trappings of a U.S. presidential visit. The rebbe will bring \$5 million in donations for his followers, according to press reports.

Bodyguards come free, thanks to beefy volunteers, as do cans of a U.S. soft drink firm — which has just won back its kosher approval.

As the limo ease into occupied Jerusalem they will follow a route closed off by police and lined by 10,000 children as they enter the orthodox area of Mea Shearim.

"These are all the children who go to our schools and do not receive a penny from the state," said Rabbi Efraim Stern, chairman of the organisation of assassins, said Mr. Meshi Zehav.

"Our approach is to save life and we pray for peace three times a day. The rebbe supports negotiations between states."

The committee's programme stresses that women can watch only from their doorsteps or windows. They are allowed outside only on a certain part of one street to join the celebrations, but the motorcade will not pass there.

A huge reception is being laid on in Sabbath Square and Mr. Stern estimated that more than 100,000 will turn out. Jerusalem's chief rabbi will give the first blessing.

The rebbe represents just the Satmar but under the umbrella of Eda Haredit — the community which trembles before God — all ultra-orthodox sects which do not recognise the state of Israel.

The Satmar, named after a town where a small Jewish community flourished in Romania, count only about 400 families in Israel.

But according to Mr. Meshi Zehav they account for more than 30,000 families in the United States, England and Belgium making them one of the biggest and arguably the wealthiest of Hasidic groups.

"We have an empire in the United States with 50,000 religious students and a budget of 75 million dollars," he boasted.

About 15,000 of the faithful are expected from abroad for the celebrations, Rabbi Stern said at Satmar headquarters where preparations were in full swing.

Posters have been billed and banners strung across the roads calling for a huge turnout to mark the "royal voyage."

The peculiar position of the orthodox who deny Zionism — in the belief that the Messiah alone, not man, can resurrect Israel — does not however in the case of Satmar lead to support for the PLO.

"The PLO is an organisation of assassins," said Mr. Meshi Zehav.

"Our approach is to save life and we pray for peace three times a day. The rebbe supports negotiations between states."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:00 Starcom 8/13
17:30 U'Esle Des Faus
18:00 Bouammar
18:30 News in English
18:45 The Weekly Sports Magazine
19:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Nanny
21:10 Doc. "Environments"
22:00 News in English
22:20 The Blowing Wind

PRAYER TIMES

05:51 Fajr
06:25 (Sunrise) Daba
12:34 Dhuh
16:15 'Asr
19:43 Maghrob
21:17 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assamblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Holy Spirit Tel. 624249
St. Inella Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 625691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Subsided by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/33
Aqaba 20/37
Jerusalem 15/34
Jordan Valley 18/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENAER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakhr Tayeh 865880
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 846970
Dr. Salim Al Daboubi 776751
Dr. Basim Qaddumi 648633
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asera pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649445
Shmiciani pharmacy 637660
Nairouh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. H. Al Omari 272002
Alkaf Pharmacy 1911
ZARQA:
Dr. Hassan Salaitah 540390
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896394
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 659810
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oversas Calls 110231
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Security 623101
Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 771111
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53201
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53201
MALIYA: J. Amman 836140
Palestine, Shmiciani 6641714
Shmiciani Hospital 664131
University Hospital 77101/3
Al-Muasher Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 6612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646
Italian, Al-Muasher 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 7751126
Armv. Marks 8611115
Queen Alia Hospital 6624050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09193323
Zarqa National Hospital 09193560

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:15 Riyadh (RJ)
09:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 Beirut (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:00 Bangkok (RJ)

19:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

23:15 Aqaba, Milano (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

11:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
17:00 London (BA)
18:00 Frankfurt (LH)
18:00 Cairo (MS)
18:00 Dubai (EM)
01:30 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
11:45 Jeddah (RJ)
12:50 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 London (BA)
13:25 Frankfurt (LH)
13:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
14:20 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
21:00 Damascus (RJ)
22:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
22:30 Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00 Istanbul (TA)
09:15 Beirut (ME)
12:00 Khartoum (SD)
14:20 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)
21:15 Doha (RJ)
22:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HUJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits army headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordan Armed Forces, Sunday called at the armed forces headquarters where he was received by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh, the chief of staff for land forces and assistants to Gen. Kaabneh. King Hussein and Gen. Kaabneh discussed issues of interest to the armed forces. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker attended part of the meeting.

Jordan pledges to help Palestinian authority

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Suqour on Sunday pledged his ministry's support for the Palestinian Ministry of Social Affairs. Speaking during a meeting with Intissar Al Wazir, the minister of social affairs in the Palestinian self-rule authority, Dr. Suqour said his ministry would put all its resources and capabilities at the disposal of the Palestinian ministry to enable it to perform its duties. Mrs. Wazir stressed the need for cooperation and coordination between the two ministries. Both ministers agreed to the formation of a joint committee on bilateral coordination chaired by secretaries general of both ministries. The meeting was attended by the Ministry of Social Development's Secretary General Suleiman Al Rousan and Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan Al Tayyeb Abdul Rahim.

Government holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — All ministries, government departments and public institutions will observe a holiday Thursday, June 9, to mark the new Hijri year, according to a communiqué issued Sunday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

RJ to launch Moscow flight

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) will launch a weekly flight to Moscow as of June 13, according to RJ sources. The sources said an Airbus 310 will leave Amman each Monday at 1:45 p.m. and return the same day from Moscow at 9:15 p.m., Jordan local time.

Dialysis units installed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two kidney dialysis units donated by His Majesty King Hussein in March have been installed in the Madaba and Jerash government hospitals, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas announced Sunday. Dr. Malhas said the two units, costing a total of JD 60,200, are ready to offer services to kidney patients. He said the 18 kidney patients in Madaba and a similar number in Jerash district had been coming to Amman hospitals for treatment. Recently a Jordanian woman donated JD 30,000 to set up another dialysis unit at Ramtha hospital as soon as possible, and training of cadres is under way at the ministry, announced Dr. Malhas. The total number of dialysis units in Jordan is now 60, distributed in various parts of the Kingdom, added the minister.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Le Jour Le Plus Long" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Chinese film entitled "The Chinese Spring Holiday" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

- ★ Poetry recital by poets Hiyam Al Dardani, Khalaf Khasawneh, Abdul Aziz Abu Gosh at the Jordan Association of Writers in Shmeisani at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Opening of a painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'oun at Darat Al Founn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Ameri entitled "Body" at Baladina Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Fatima El-Heln at Goethe-Institut.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Huda Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition of Chinese paintings at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman.
- ★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Isam Tantawi at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhais (Tel. 728677).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Abcer Bawah at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of photographs of "The Living Dead Sea" by Paula Williams-Brown at The Gallery of the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.

Government reappoints Nabulsi to head CBJ

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has reappointed Mohammad Said Nabulsi as governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) for another five-year term, reflecting a determination to press ahead with the present monetary policies and economic restructuring programme of the Kingdom as well as the measures adopted to cope with the developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The move ended widespread speculation over the possible successor to the man who served the CBJ for two consecutive terms in the 70s and 80s before heading a major U.N. agency and thereafter joining the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) as an advisor.

Dr. Nabulsi, who is credited with rescuing the dinar following the currency's collapse in 1988-89 and regulating the Kingdom's banking sector, confirmed on Sunday that he had accepted the

reappointment, but indicated that he might not serve the full five-year term.

Under the relevant law, CBJ governors are appointed for five-year terms. "I would not like to use the term 'pressured,' but I could not say no to the expressed wish that I stay on the job at this particular juncture in the banking and monetary situation, although I wanted to retire because of health reasons," Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times.

The government decision not to accept Dr. Nabulsi's request for retirement reflected its determination not to interrupt the economic and monetary course launched in 1989 when the Kingdom faced one of its severest crises.

However, he added, "I may not serve out the full term since my health will not permit it. I will be serving a much shorter term than the five years."

Observers noted that Jordan had to confront the new economic and monetary



Mohammad Said Nabulsi

realities posed by the developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process, the Kingdom's role/involvement in and links with the occupied territories where the dinar is designated as the major currency in circulation and the reopening of Jordanian commercial banks there under CBJ control.

"Dr. Nabulsi is the mastermind behind the decisions

best qualified for the job," said the observer.

"These responsibilities come in addition to the course that Dr. Nabulsi set in 1989 to correct the monetary situation of the country," added the observer who declined to be named.

Dr. Nabulsi, 66, who served as CBJ governor between June 1973 and July 1985, was brought back to the post in May 1989 when the economy went into a spin and the dinar plunged following Jordan's failure to meet its foreign debt obligations and the depletion of foreign exchange reserves.

Introducing a two-tier exchange system, Dr. Nabulsi stabilised the dinar's value at a mid-point and then firmed it up, reflecting the actual worth of the currency in less than 18 months by building up foreign exchange reserves through strict control measures.

Now Jordan has a healthy foreign exchange reserve of more than \$1 billion compared with zero when Dr.

Nabulsi took over in 1989.

Another key task that was successfully completed by Dr. Nabulsi was streamlining the chaotic banking sector, particularly the collapse of Petra Bank which cost the treasury more than JD 200 million at a most critical period, and addressing the problems of several other troubled banks.

Banking circles also noted that it was Dr. Nabulsi's preemptive action to bring back Jordanians' foreign currency deposits that averted massive losses for the local clients of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) two years ago.

Dr. Nabulsi, who secured his doctorate from Georgetown University, in Washington D.C. in 1964, served as minister of economy in 1972 and 1973.

After leaving the CBJ in 1985, he was executive secretary of the then Baghdad-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) until May 1989.

Amman, Moscow to stimulate trade

AMMAN (Petra) — The chambers of industry of Moscow and Amman Sunday signed a memorandum of understanding and cooperation aimed at stimulating economic and trade relations.

Head of the Amman Chamber of Industry Khalid Abu Hassan said after the signing that the two sides agreed on exploring ways to launch joint industrial ventures and exchange information on organising trade fairs.

Russia and Jordan will also facilitate the missions of visiting businesspersons from either side and help them organise seminars and conferences designed to promote trade between the two countries, he added.

During the talks, held at the Amman Chamber of Industry, the two sides reviewed ways to boost the volume of trade and agreed on setting up related joint committee or a business council, Mr. Abu Hassan said. The head of the Russian team underlined his country's desire to set up joint investment companies with Jordanian businesspersons and the exchange of industrial expertise.

Agriculture experts study consultancy programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is still courageously and patiently facing many challenges, including rapid agricultural development in the Kingdom as well as in other countries of the world and intense competition in agricultural markets, according to Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mahdi Farhan.

In an address Sunday at the opening of a training course to evaluate the results of agricultural consultancy programmes operated by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Arab Organisation of

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the head of the team as saying that the Moscow chamber represents an area comprising 20 million people and houses 34 per cent of the Russian technological industries which earn nearly 25 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

At the outset of the meeting, Mr. Abu Hassan presented a briefing on Jordanian industries, Jordan's trade with Russia and prospects for investments in the two countries.

Jordan has strong and growing relations with Russia in all fields and has been importing an average of \$50 million worth of Russian products annually, against \$37 million worth of Jordanian products, said Mr. Abu Hassan.

"We look forward to increasing the volume of trade with Russia and launching joint industrial ventures in the two countries," added Mr. Abu Hassan. Petra quoted the Amman Chamber of Industry chief as saying that the two countries have been exchanging food supplies, electrical appliances, construction material, furniture timber as well as computers.

Agricultural Development (AOAD), Dr. Farhan said global trade liberalisation and the removal of barriers on the movement of agricultural products paved the way for accelerated competition during the coming few years.

The minister stressed that the ability to compete will be governed by the sound management of the agricultural production resources, which requires the application of current data at the level of farms in the best possible manner.

Unemployment rates spur convening of small business promotion workshop

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Because unemployment rates are on the increase in Near East countries, the Centre for Development Services (CDS), under the co-sponsorship of the Near East Foundation/Jordan (NEF) and the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) Sunday began a three-week workshop on the design and management of business promotion programmes within the context of local and rural development.

According to Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour, who opened the workshop at the Crown Hotel, promoting development in this region is a priority of all its countries.

"Most third world countries, including the Near East countries, suffer from poverty and unemployment, and these factors could be reduced if we promote and encourage small businesses and societies," Dr. Sqour said, addressing more than 35 participants from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine and Sudan and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

Dr. Sqour stressed the need for countries to avoid using outdated procedures in the fields of development and to resort to modern strategies which, he said, call for social and human security.

The minister pointed to world political and social



Speakers at the opening of a three-week workshop on the design and management of business promotion programmes Sunday address participant. On the podium from left to right are NEF Director Curtis Rhodes, Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour, CARDNE Director Amal Sabagh and NEF Deputy Director Patrick Crump (Photo by Rana Hussein)

changes, saying that such changes force us "to re-examine our standards and procedures so that our country will accomplish something instead of having an outside hand planning our future."

CARDNE Director Amal Sabagh said there is an increase in the numbers of employed in the formal sector, and small businesses are a way out of the dilemma of unemployment and poverty. At the same time, she added, small businesses have a developmental effect on the local community.

Ms. Sabagh explained the objectives of the workshop and said it will be drawing on the experiences of the participants and trainees.

She told the Jordan Times that the first week will focus on local and economic development, in addition to

taking the participants on field trips.

During the second week, she said, participants will concentrate on small businesses, and in the final week, they will tackle the role of financial institutions in interacting with small businesses and the related problems of and solutions to promoting small businesses.

Course coordinator and NEF Deputy Director Patrick Crump, who also addressed the participants, said "the coordination of this course between countries in the region, ensuring that the experiences and lessons of development in each enriches the curriculum, has been a true exercise in pan-Arabism."

"Many people in the Middle East feel victims of forces and events that directly touch

their lives, forces and events that are beyond their control," Mr. Crump said.

He said the course will focus on understanding how ordinary people participate in the development of their economy and their society, particularly through small businesses.

"As development practitioners, it is our duty to help people participate in economic development, and to ensure that they participate on a just and suitable basis," Mr. Crump said.

Entitled "Business for Local Development in the Arab World," the regional training programme, which is also held in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development, will stress active learning, and trainees will take part in field exercises and learning projects.

Sahab industries suffer water shortages

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Sahab Industrial City near Amman is suffering from shortages of water needed by most of the 320 industries and 12,000

workers at the complex, said Fayez Saheimat, director general of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) Sunday.

Dr. Saheimat told the Jordan Times that the Sahab Industrial City requires at least 1,500 cubic metres of water daily, but the factories have not been receiving sufficient water via the central water networks and have had to depend on water tankers.

He said the industrial city has water towers with a total capacity of 4,000 cubic metres, in addition to a 1,200 cubic metre tower for emergencies, especially fires. But, he said the towers are never full.

Dr. Saheimat was commenting on a meeting with Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Afif Al Ghoul who discussed the water supply issue with him and a group of proprietors of industrial concerns at Sahab Sunday.

He said that despite the JIEC's efforts, there seems to be no quick solution to the water shortage problem and the factories and workers have to continue depending on private water tankers. Major General Ghoul discussed several issues related to providing security and other precautionary and safe-

ty measures at the factories with the factory owners.

In the past year the CDD dealt with 610 emergencies at the Sahab complex, including 22 fires, said Maj. Gen. Ghoul.

The CDD chief urged the municipal and water authorities to make available more water to the Sahab factories. He also called on the owners of factories to install the necessary fire-fighting equipment and take other safety measures to protect individuals as well as property.

The CDD is ready to cooperate with the factories in organising training courses for the workers in civil defence and safety measures, Maj. Gen. Ghoul said. But, he added despite the CDD's earlier calls, some of the factories have failed to respond to the training offer, added Maj. Gen. Ghoul.

He pointed in particular to the dangers of leaving inflammable solid and liquid waste in the open and nearby the factories as one aspect of poor cooperation with the CDD.

Jordan's democratic process: searching for the road ahead

AMMAN (J.T.) — When Ahmad Obaidat, a former prime minister and former head of the intelligence, opened the final session of last week's conference on "Jordan's Democratic Process," he admitted that in the past he had not been a supporter of the democratic option for Jordan.

But since he headed the Royal Commission for the National Charter he had become convinced of the need for real democratic development. In this light, he expressed his belief in the need for a deepening of democracy in the country at the present time to prevent a damaging regression of the process.

The frank and enlightening comments by Mr. Obaidat were indicative of both the open tone of the conference and the political shift which Jordan has undergone in the last five years.

The conference, organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre in cooperation with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, sought to bring together a wide variety of participants from the government, parliament, political parties and the country's civil

society to discuss the background to Jordan's democratic process and its future prospects. The rationale behind the diversity of the gathering was that democracy is not solely a political phenomenon but includes all aspects of the country's civil society as well.

By commissioning some 17 papers and 15 discussions, and by attracting between 100 and 150 persons, including former prime ministers, deputies, political party leaders, journalists and social activists, over the three days, the organisers believe that the conference represented an important and unique forum for discussion of the country's political, economic and social development.

In the view of Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre, one of the important achievements of the conference was the fact that it brought together establishment figures, Islamists, leftists, centrists, conservatives, nationalists and pan-Arabists, and that these politically disparate groups sat

together round the same table and listened to each other's views on issues such as Jordan's government, parliament and judiciary in the democratic era, "women and democracy," "the media in the democratic era" and "political Islam and democracy."

NEWS ANALYSIS

The main focus of debate over the three days was whether, in light of the experiences of the various social and political participants over the last five years, Jordan's democratic process can be defined as going forward or whether it is in fact regressing. Often discussion of this issue has been shifted due to the fact that the government has contented itself with statements declaring that democracy is alive and well, whilst many opposition elements have declared it to be in decline and without a future. Over the course of the conference participants were able to think more deeply about the issue and to analyse the exact nature of the democratic process as it impacts on Jordanian society. Inevitably, opinions dif-

fered as to the state of the country's democracy. Many maintained that some of the laws introduced in the "democratic era," such as the election law and the press and publications law, had actually hindered democratic development.

Those who advocated that democracy is progressing tended to qualify their statements by pointing to Jordan's "relative democracy" in comparison with its neighbours, or to the inevitable occurrence of downturns in any country's political development. One speaker stated that the Jordanian political establishment was stronger now than ever before, and "democracy" is one of its strongest cards. Thus, the speaker believed, there will not be a pull-back from democracy.

Many participants advanced suggestions as to how democracy can be strengthened and deepened through the passing and amending of laws relating to political parties, the press, civil liberties and the electoral system. Others warned that laws alone are not enough, and that a genuine commitment to democratic

development has to exist. Some participants criticised the performance of the country's political parties for their weak role since their legalisation. Whilst recognising the limitations of the political parties law, they felt that the parties had largely not deepened their social base and had failed to establish the party tradition in the country's politics.

Many believed that Jordan still suffered from a weak national identity, and this, they stated, represented the core problem inhibiting the country's democratic development. This weakness, they maintained, hindered the development of coherent national parties and a stronger national polity.

Most participants agreed that continued uncertainty and concern over the eventual outcome of the peace process and Jordan's eventual regional role represented a profound obstacle to the democratic process. One participant was concerned that Jordan might "pay the price for the peace process." Another participant lamented that after five years of democracy the country is

still fixated with the issue of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, whilst what the country needs is a "national programme with national goals."

The conclusion of the conference was a roundtable discussion involving many leading members of Jordan's political establishment, political opposition and press and social activists. Each participant in the discussion was given the opportunity to give their opinion on the state of democracy in Jordan and what they believe were the likely problems and prospects for the future. Some of the concerns they raised were: the lack of an independent press to act as the fourth power in the country; the lingering effects of martial law and the proliferation of temporary laws; and, the need for an indigenous concept of democracy.

What was clear from the three days of discussion was that whilst a myriad of opinions inevitably exists in the country there is a growing determination from many quarters to sit together to ensure that the democratic process is not allowed to regress.

Dr. Salwa Said

Consultant Allergist and Immunologist
American Board of Pediatrics
American Board of Allergy and Immunology
Fellow American Academy of Allergy and Immunology
Announces the opening of her clinic at the Speciality Medical Center — East of Speciality Hospital, Shmeisani:

Tel: 696334
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Round part of whole

JORDAN'S DECISION to press ahead with negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli peace track reflects, basically, two important considerations that our country as a whole has to take into account.

The first is our sense of great disappointment that Arab coordination has not really ever materialised or bore fruit.

Right from the start of the Madrid talks in October 1991 it was clear, following the Gulf war and the damage that the war inflicted on the Arab body politic, that the minimum level of Arab consensus had been lost. All those so-called Arab coordination sessions since then have been more of a public relations stunt than real team work. What has exacerbated the problem is Israel's explicit determination to strike separate deals on each of the peace tracks. Israel's first breakthrough was with the Palestinians, which drove a big wedge between the Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, on the one hand, and the other parties — Jordan, Syria, Lebanon — on the other.

The second important consideration is, now that the negotiations on the Syrian-Israeli track are only awaiting a final push, inevitably carrying with them the Lebanese, Jordan cannot afford to be left behind without any real bargaining chips in its hands. That situation, so many sensible Jordanians have argued, is not in the best interests of the country. Hence the necessity of the latest step to resume the talks in Washington today and perhaps to move them later to the region for practical purposes.

Needless to say, there is nothing that should stop Jordan and Israel from settling the issue of their common border in accordance to international law as embodied in the 1922 League of Nations terms of the British mandate over Palestine and Jordan. A settlement of this issue can then be turned into a crucial precedent, for Syria and Lebanon, and also the Palestinians, to follow. Nothing is more important here than for Israel to confine itself to internationally acknowledged boundaries, leaving in the process the occupied Arab territories to their rightful owners. The water issue is of course more complex. Israel has so far insisted that since water was scarce the two countries should embark on joint projects to generate new sources of water. That Jordan welcomes but only after it gets its rightful share of the joint resources.

What we hope will result from the Washington talks is concrete movement towards lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. If Jordan can get the Israelis to concede on Jordanian rights on borders and water, if it can get the Israelis to accept the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, then those talks that are to be held in Washington tomorrow will be a major step towards achieving that peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's expression of dissatisfaction with the level of coordination among Arab parties to the peace process by reiterating the Jordanian principled stand of backing the Arab Nation and the Palestinians, regardless of their own position. The King has expressed dismay at finding that the coordination was solely observed by Jordan alone, but nevertheless he said Jordan will continue to offer the Palestinian brothers all that is in its power to help them achieve their objectives, said the paper. But the paper also stressed the need for the domestic front to remain strong, united and vigilant to prevent the marginalisation of the country. A strong internal front, added the daily, is a source of power for Jordan and the Palestinians who continue to count on Jordan for much of their needs. By reiterating Jordan's commitment to the peace process, the King has at the same time demanded closer coordination on the part of the Arab parties so that a peaceful settlement can be comprehensive, lasting and just, said the daily.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i expressed regret that the fighting in Yemen continues unabated despite the lapse of three days following U.N. Security Council Resolution 924 which calls for a ceasefire. Mahmoud Rimawi said that there was urgent need for the world community to interfere and stop the fighting and prevent a devastation of Aden and the loss of further numbers of innocent lives. The writer said that the council's resolution had demanded that the unity of Yemen be safeguarded but failed to call for the withdrawal of northern forces from areas in the South. This could have meant an encouragement to the northern forces to carry on the fight against the South. He said the northern leaders should have positively responded to the ceasefire call and stopped the fighting to prevent further devastation and more loss of life, although they seem to have the upper hand in the conflict. The writer said there is still time to end the fighting and to opt for dialogue, and the leaders in Sanaa should take the initiative in this respect.

Human Rights File

Jordan should take seriously its meeting with HRC

By Waleed Sadi

LAST MARCH, Jordan missed a date with the Human Rights Committee (HRC) to submit its third periodic report on the extent of its adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The HRC is a quasi-judicial organ mandated by the international community to monitor the degree of states' abidance by the provisions of the ICCPR in their domestic legislations and practices. The absence of the Jordanian delegation was shocking to the 18-member human rights panel but was tolerated on the basis that the Kingdom will take more seriously its treaty obligations under the ICCPR when the new date for its report submission falls in July. As a member of this international human rights body, I respectfully propose that our authorities keep the following points in mind when they reenter the arena of the HRC this summer:

The Jordanian delegation must include highly senior officials who are well-versed with the local scene from a legislative and practices perspectives. In other words, the delegation must be a multiple team with no less than three principal personalities aided by no less than two assistants. The reason why such a big delegation would be necessary is because the probing into Jordan's domestic situation will be so varied that no one official can be expected to deal with successfully on his own. In this context, it is always recommended that the delegation include a woman.

Diplomats are not usually taken seriously in such confrontations because they are seldom privy to the nitty-gritty of human rights issues at the local scene and also because they are usually viewed as mouthpieces of the official line. Any diplomat designated as a member of the delegation must be confined to a secondary function, leaving the pivotal roles to senior officials from the Judiciary, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice.

The second advice that I submit in this direction is never to take the defensive position that all is perfect in Jordan when it comes to the application of international human rights standards. There is hardly a country that can rightfully claim to

enjoy a perfect human rights record. The credibility of the delegation would be compromised by any such posture. Instead, the delegation must remain honest and candid in pointing out the difficulties that prevent the full implementation of the articles of the ICCPR.

We should also take note of the views and final comments of the members of the human rights body and promise to try to take them into consideration as soon as possible. The ICCPR makes it compulsory on all state parties to put into immediate effect all the provisions of the ICCPR, either by directly incorporating them into the national legislations or by amending the laws, including the organic ones, in order to comply with the standards of the human rights treaty. That is why one of the questions often posed during the examination of state reports is whether the courts of the land apply the provisions of the ICCPR and what would happen if there is a conflict between the ICCPR and the local laws, including the constitution. We must be prepared to respond to such a line of questioning because it will surely take place. The following could be a sample of the inquiries that could be raised during the "interrogation" of the Jordanian delegation:

1- The status of the ICCPR within the domestic laws of the country could be the first concern of the committee members. What the members would want to know is whether the ICCPR is part of the organic law of the country and whether it can be directly invoked in a Jordanian court of law. Where there are still discrepancies between Jordanian law and the articles of the covenant, the members would want to be assured that the covenant enjoys a priority treatment.

2- Sex discrimination will surely figure high on the list of probes to be expected from the members. Many would want to know how women are treated in Jordanian society. Judging by previous expressed concerns, many would probe into the so-called crimes committed in the name of family honour and what the government is doing about it. Others would demand information on the inheritance laws and how they may apply

equally to men and women. Marriage related issues would also be raised with a view to ascertaining the extent of legal protection to wives when marriage breaks down.

3- Minority rights in the Kingdom can also be expected to be addressed. How the various Christian, communities enjoy their freedom of worship can be expected to be touched upon. Equality between Muslims and Christians, the fate of the Bahai community and the treatment accorded to it would also be the subject of investigation.

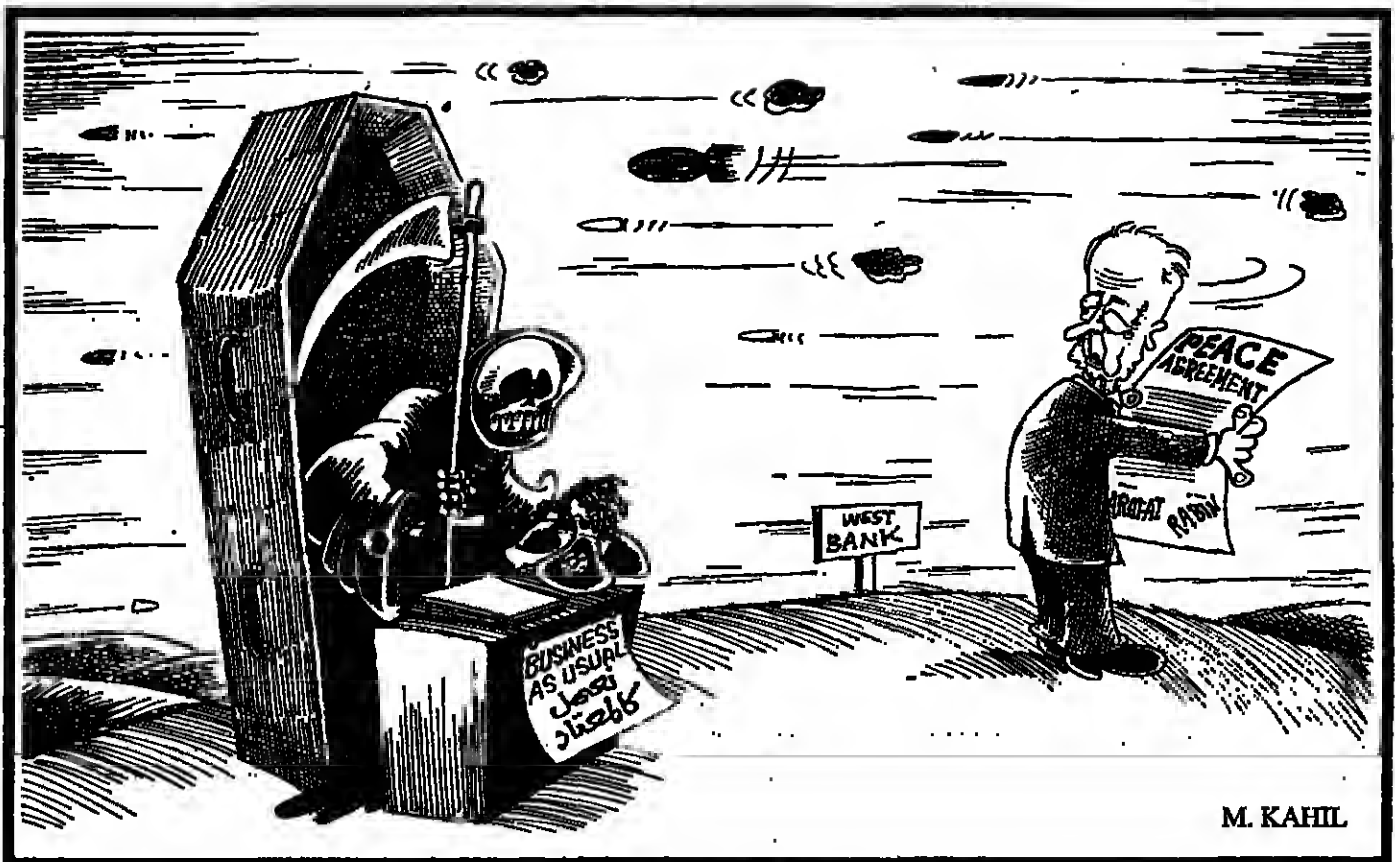
4- The death penalty will attract attention for sure in view of the fact that the greater majority of the experts sitting on the bench of the committee are "abolitionists." The number of Jordanians who were executed over the past few years will be the subject of observations from many such human rights experts. The Jordanian delegation must not feel intimidated in this context because the ICCPR, the gospel of the HRC, does not rule out the capital punishment.

5- The democratisation process in the country will be praised for sure. Yet many would want to appraise the depth and extent of the process. How electoral districts are drawn could be a cause of concern to some members of the panel. Parliamentary immunity may also be discussed.

6- Labour related issues touching on the right to organise labour unions and call for a strike would be of interest to a limited number of the committee members.

For sure, there would be other unexpected probes. If it is true that some Jordanian and non-Jordanian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are preparing files to assist the committee members in their investigation of the Jordanian scene, then the sky is the limit as to what we can anticipate.

The committee will expect the Jordanian government to act upon the recommendations that it will send with the delegation. Since the HRC acts as a quasi-judicial organ that interprets the provisions of the international covenant, its conclusions have the weight of law in the international human rights law. I strongly urge the government to take very seriously its next round of dialogue with the HRC.



Japan's right erupts into violence

By Eric Talmadge
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Pushed into a corner by police crackdowns, Japan's right-wing fringe is increasingly turning to violence as it seeks a place in the post-cold war world.

In April, extremists brandishing dynamite and a Samurai sword forced their way into a newspaper office and took hostages. Earlier this week, a man linked to rightists fired a gun near a former prime minister.

"We must not forget that before the war the activities of right-wing terrorists stifled free debate and buried democracy," warned the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, a leading newspaper, in an editorial Tuesday.

"We must clasp political terrorism before it can sprout." As the editorial went to print, police in Tokyo were searching the headquarters of the Shokuniku, or true Spirit Association. The rightist group is linked to Masakazu Nozoe, 52, who fired a pistol near former prime minister Morihiro Hosokawa Monday.

The attacker fired one shot into the ceiling of a hotel lobby as Mr. Hosokawa prepared to leave. No one was hurt.

Police say Mr. Nozoe may have been motivated by anger over an apology Mr. Hosokawa offered to Japan's Asian neighbors for World War II Hajime Ishii, head of the government's national public safety commission, responded on the day after the attack by vowing to "crack down on this inexcusable increase in violence."

Mr. Hosokawa's remarks, made soon after he took office last year, won international praise. But such apologies rankle the right-wing, which claims Japan was trying to liberate Asia from Western colonialism and has nothing to atone for.

Rightists were outraged again last month, when a cabinet minister and former army chief of staff was forced to resign for saying the "rape of Nanking," China's wartime capital, by Japanese troops, was a hoax.

Historians believe as many as 300,000 people died in the 1937 invasion. Though divided into hundreds of often tiny, rival groups, Japan's ultranationalist rightists generally share a reverence for the emperor and a belief there are about 100,000 rightists nationwide.

Until Monday's shooting, rightist IRE had been mostly focused on the media — particularly the liberal-leaning Asahi newspaper.

In April alone, rightists seized Asahi executives as hostages, attacked its headquarters with a firebomb and drove a truck through the front window of one of its regional offices.

Editors at the Asahi insist the rightist threat hasn't affected their news decisions. But a latest fear of rightists lingering from prewar days is never far below the surface in Japan.

One of Asahi's former

palace reporters, Tsutomu Ishii, says Japan's major media are particularly careful when reporting on the imperial family, both out of respect and out of a fear of rightist reprisals.

Two senior foreign ministry officials, speaking on condition they not be further identified, said fear of the fringe also influenced a government decision to drop a visit to Pearl Harbor from Emperor Akibito's trip to the United States later this month.

Rightists have a long history of attacking presumed opponents.

"Right-wing organisations, nurtured by the government in the years leading up to World War II, continued to receive tacit support after the war because they counterbalanced a once powerful leftist movement."

One Asahi reporter was shot to death by suspected rightists in 1987, and Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima was shot in the chest in 1990 after he said the late Emperor Hirohito shared responsibility for World War II. All told, five former prime ministers have been attacked by rightists in the past 40 years.

But according to a leader of one influential right-wing group, recent outbursts are less a reflection of political outrage than of a gradual weakening of the radical right's influence in Japan.

"For many right-wing groups, the bigger question right now is survival," says Mitsuhiro Kimura, secretary-general of the Issui-Kai.

Right-wing organisations, nurtured by the government in the years leading up to World War II, continued to receive tacit support after the war because they counterbalanced a once powerful leftist movement.

But with the collapse of Communism, Mr. Kimura said, that function has become obsolete and police have intensified pressure on the right over the past two years.

The right has lost its claim to political integrity because its ranks are thoroughly infused with thugs whose main goal is to extort money from image-conscious corporations and mainstream politicians.

Most rightist groups maintain military-style trucks equipped with powerful loudspeakers — a tool they can use to build up their recognition among the public or to embarrass targets who refuse to cough up funds. Deafening rightist caravans are a common sight in most Japanese cities.

"None of this helps our cause," Mr. Kimura said. "Only about 40 per cent of the people claiming to be rightists are serious about it. The rest are in it for the money."

Letter from Qurna

Saddam can hardly be blamed for wanting to make the marshes safe

By Tim Llewellyn

THE 300-mile drive south east to the heart of the Marshes from Baghdad — compulsory to these "no-fly" days — takes us across the wide, sandy flatlands of history. Past Kut Al-Amara, where a British army was cut down by the Ottomans in 1916, retreating from an ill-conceived assault on Baghdad; past, visible to the east, in Iranian Kurdistan, the mountains that dominate the frontier with Iran; in between, all the way, the two great rivers of Mesopotamia, the Tigris and the Euphrates. And on to Qurna and the site, according to some, of the Garden of Eden.

It is a sad drive these days. The Iraqis are without hope or prospects, well into their fourth year of a debilitating oil embargo and trade sanctions, an endless punishment, it seems for a dreadful mistake made by a leader they did not choose and have no control over. In Baghdad, the wearying pressure is palpable in the tatty villages, the belching black smoke from the brick factories, the dejected figures silhouetted against the great sky and the lines of date palms, the beaten-up trucks and cars. Such is inflation that the only place we see a five-dinar note these days (worth more than \$16 in July 1990) is in the fists of lorry-drivers buying glasses of sweet tea at roadside stalls. Two hundred dinars buys us a meal for two. The people that serve it could never afford it, yet in American money it is 90 cents.

At Qurna, a few miles from the Iranian border, about half way between Amara and Basra, on the edge of the Huwaz Marsh, we wait to

sniff the tension and test the heightened security that must be evident in an area where, Western politicians, newspapers and TV documentaries assure us, mass murders of the Marsh Arabs, the ancient "Madan", are taking place. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, we are assured, is calling yet another recalcitrant ethnic group.

Strangely, all seems calm, everyone seems happy. It is true the cheerleaders are from the Ba'th Party, but that murky aura of death and fear is not in the air. Dare I say it, these Madan actually like being modernised. A burgeoning drainage and

improve their health and welfare and build up our own foodstocks?" a former Iraqi ambassador had asked me in Baghdad.

In a mudflat, a meeting-house about 40 feet long and 15 feet high, built in a Gothic arch from tightly woven reeds, the twin portraits of the Shiite Muslim martyr Ali and the ubiquitous Saddam Hussein stare approvingly down. Everyone is delighted at the new life. No one will admit to being unhappy at moving from inside the disease-ridden swamps to dry lands. And the Marsh Arabs of the Qurna region keep emphasising the menace that, for them, lurks in and beyond the Marshes: criminals, dissidents, deserters, Iranian gunmen and Iraqi trouble-makers.

The Marshes were ever the route for marauding Persians, the hideaways for Iraq's enemies, outlaws and bandits. The Iraqis came again and again between 1980 and 1988, nearly but never quite to Basra, Amara, Qurna; and then again, three years ago, the Marshes were the passageway for invading Iranian and exiled Iraqi gunmen, in support of the rebellion against Saddam, and the Marshes were their escape routes and their sanctuary — they remain so — when that revolt was crushed.

Mr. Hussein may be an international pariah and regional menace, but he can hardly be blamed for wanting to make the Marshes safe. Or, for that matter, productive.

"The routine Western version of the Marshes story is usually gathered on the Iranian side, under Iranian supervision, with the help of Iraqi opposition groups nourished, supported by and housed in Iran. In this atmosphere of campaign and confusion, the truth about the Marsh Arabs is lost."

about slaughtering anyone who stood in his way. But the tales of genocide, chemical weapons and mass slaughter are exaggerated, a complex story simplified by lack of knowledge and partisan journalism. The routine Western version of the Marshes story is usually gathered on the Iranian side, under Iranian supervision, with the help of Iraqi opposition groups nourished, supported by and housed in Iran. In this atmosphere of campaign and confusion, the truth about the Marsh Arabs is lost.

"It is a crime that we want to develop people, bring them out of the Dark Ages,

the writer is a former BBC Radio correspondent in the Middle East. This article is reprinted from the London-based magazine Middle East International.

irrigation scheme has brought a man-made river sweeping south-east, canals shooting off from it, other similar projects under way or planned. The Marsh Arabs can still live near the water, but out of it now, with electricity, clinics, financial help, government food rations and clean water to drink, the land washed clear of salt and reclaimed for wheat, barley and rice. They keep their reeds, their hunting, their water buffalo and way of life, and — yes — it has to be said, they are more manageably arranged for Mr. Saddam's supervision. Progress disciplines everyone.

the writer is a former BBC Radio correspondent in the Middle East. This article is reprinted from the London-based magazine Middle East International.

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Ike and Monty planned D-Day in English pub

By Peter Millership
Reuters

SOUTHWICK — In the cramped bar of a 17th century rural English pub, generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and Bernard Montgomery planned the greatest invasion in the history of warfare over beer and lemonade.

As the D-Day push to drive the German from France on June 6, 1944, drew near, the two generals sometimes ventured out from a mansion in the village of Southwick in southern England where they were plotting their momentous strategy.

"They would come late in the morning and Ike would have a beer and Monty, who was a teetotaler, a lemonade," said retired barmaid Edwina Williams, who served them.

"Ike was always friendly but I found General Montgomery a bit cold," added Ms. Williams, who is now 84.

In a quiet corner of the "Golden Lion" they would spread out maps and engage in lengthy discussions, out of earshot of their aides and pub regulars, about the plans which would alter the course of World War II.

"Eisenhower liked his pint of home-drew beer and was always quick with a smile," Ms. Williams said in an interview. "But it's quite something to think then we were putting together the last pieces of the jigsaw right here in the pub."

On June 5, Ms. Williams told Gen. Montgomery, known for his brilliant mind but prickly character, that a German parachute bomb had dropped unexploded near her home.

The next day he presented her with the silk parachute and its blue cords.

"I made a pair of camiknickers (underwear) out of them and I never could have told him," she said.

Villagers were unaware that Gen. Eisenhower was agonising about when to unleash the might of the allied armies on Germany which led him to say just before the landings: "I am quite positive we must give the order... I don't like it but there it is."

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Majali briefs Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

saying these relations were significantly special because of the similarity of positions on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

According to Mr. Masri, the prime minister also renewed Jordan's call for a ceasefire in strife-torn Yemen and the Kingdom's policy of non-interference in its internal affairs or supporting any of the warring parties against the other.

Dr. Majali also denied statements by southern Yemeni leader Salem Ali Al Beidh that Jordan had offered assistance to northern Yemeni forces and "expressed regret over such unjust accusations against Jordan by Mr. Beidh, who had authorised His Majesty the King to take the necessary measures to preserve Yemen's

unity," according to Mr. Masri. The speaker quoted Dr. Majali as saying that Jordan had only transported Jordanian and non-Jordanian nationalists out of Yemen on humanitarian grounds.

He said that the prime minister briefed the deputies on developments in the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks and the meeting to be held between the two parties Monday in Washington.

On the domestic front, said Mr. Masri, the deputies tackled several issues, including public freedoms which will be discussed in other meetings.

The prime minister stressed to the deputies that appointments in ministries and government departments are conducted without any personal considerations.

Economy doing well this year

(Continued from page 1)

military personnel and the pensioners, employees excelling in their performance would be granted other allowances depending on the degree of their progress and their production.

Mr. Gammoah also said that the government decided to review the employees' salary scale at the start of July each year with a view to introducing increases as far as financial means allows.

Mr. Gammoah said the economy was moving ahead "with firm strides towards further growth and stability."

Economic indicators in the first few months of this year point to continuing economic growth in various sectors of production and service despite the "wait-and-see situation" in view of the prevailing circumstances in the region, Mr. Gammoah said.

"We hope to see all Jordan's economic objectives achieved with the completion of the economic restructuring programme agreed on with the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," the minister said, adding that the accomplishments of the past two years had exceeded expectations.

Mr. Gammoah said that exports rose from JD 213 million in the first four months of 1993 to JD 292 million in the first quarter of this year and imports declined from JD 697 million in the first four months of 1993 to JD 644 million in the same period of 1994.

The deficit in the fiscal budget has narrowed from JD

69 million to JD 21.7 million in the first four months of this year, largely due to a decline in expenditure and a rise in revenues, the minister said.

Mr. Gammoah said that an upsurge in the construction business provides another indicator of the improvement of the general economic situation.

In the first four months of last year, 2,889 building licences were issued against 4,232 in the same period of this year while the area built during this period this year amounted to nearly a million square metres, up from 635,000 square metres in the same period of last year, the minister said.

Mr. Gammoah noted that initial issues in Amman Financial Market (AFM) in the first four months of 1994 amounted to JD 79.2 million compared to JD 48.1 million in the same period of 1993.

Mr. Gammoah said the government expects Jordan to achieve a 5.5 per cent growth at current fixed prices in the gross domestic product (GDP). Inflation, he said, is expected at five per cent. A reduction in the fiscal budget by 6.4 per cent over the 1993 figures is also expected.

A reduction in the budget deficit from 6.4 per cent of the gross domestic product in 1993 to 5.4 per cent this year is also expected, Mr. Gammoah said.

The government expects a reduction of the deficit in the current balance of payments from JD 648 million in 1993 to JD 546 million this year, he said.

Jordan seen confident

(Continued from page 1)

progress, the sources said. The former minister said the complexity of the refugees issue and the difficulty expected to accompany any attempts to solve it would make it a stumbling bloc in the face of any progress.

"Jordan and Israel could not have made headway in their talks if the refugees problem was part of the talks, especially that other parties will have to be involved in any agreement on it."

However, he added, the "great omission" of the refugees problem from the talks could jeopardise the chances for a successful solution to it because Israel might refuse to make the necessary concession once it has reached agreements on other issues.

But Israel and the PLO agreed in Oslo that the status of displaced persons from the 1967 war would be discussed by a special committee which would include representatives from Jordan, the PLO, Israel and Egypt, the source close to the negotiations said.

"That is why perhaps the issue of refugees has been left out of the Washington talks," the Israeli and Palestinian sides had also agreed that the issue of 1948 refugees will not be discussed before the beginning of the final status negotiations no later than three years after the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho deal. No date has been set yet for the meeting of the committee.

The former official said that with the expected progress, Jordan will enter a new era in the talk and will arrange its situation accordingly to it.

His Majesty King Hussein

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

UNDP urges family planning to mark World Environment Day

By a Jordan Times Staff
Reporter

AMMAN — Amid the fast pace of technological advances in the world, enough attention should be given to addressing the needs of the growing number of families in distress, the United Nations said Sunday marking "World Environment Day".

In a statement issued on the occasion, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator James G. Speth underlined the inseparable links binding poverty, environment and population and called for increased efforts at family planning throughout the world.

"Poverty can lead to environmental degradation as poor people often rely on already degraded resources," said the statement, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times. "Completing the vicious circle, environmental degradation often increases poverty since, as resources become depleted, ecological cycles collapse and living conditions degenerate marked," it said.

Noting that the UNDP had adopted "one family, one earth" as the theme for this year's World Environment Day and the year 1994 itself has been designated as the Year of the Family, Mr. Speth

highlighted the challenges the world faces with the increasing population and the subsequent demands for basic education, health care and jobs.

"During the past decades, the number of families in our world increased dramatically and experts predict that this will be the trend well into the next century," Mr. Speth said.

Noting that the present population of the world stands around 5.5 billion and is projected to reach 10 billion by the year 2050, the UNDP administrator said among the challenges facing the world was how to "create conditions that will eliminate poverty and help to stabilise family."

Following are major excerpts from the statement:

"While the number of families is increasing, the situation of nuclear and extended families is deteriorating. Throughout the world single parent families are on the rise. Traditional family security is breaking down as families are increasingly threatened by crime, drugs, cultural collapse or poverty."

"In this year of the Family we need to red-double our efforts at family planning. We must aim to give people choices and incentives to have smaller families, and for the long term, create fewer families overall. We must find ways to both reduce unplanned future population growth and de-

vide reduce unplanned future population growth and devise programmes and policies that minimise the effect of current and foreseen growth."

"To strengthen the family, as well as society as a whole, we need sustainable human development. Sustainable human development is the kind of development that meets people's basic needs for jobs, basic education and health care; that regenerates the environment rather than destroying it; and that empowers people to have a say in the decisions affecting their lives rather than marginalising them."

"Sustainable human development recognises the complex links between the well-being of individuals, families, communities and ecosystems on the one hand and the health and prosperity of nations on the other. It recognises the role of women in society, and in turn the effect that role has on the environment."

In most societies, women are at the core of the family, responsible for family health care, nutrition, child care, and, often, for family food supply, water and energy. So women's education and training are crucial. Efforts must be made to raise female literacy, improve women's skills in agriculture, environmental management and health and reproductive care. As female literacy goes

up, fertility goes down, child and maternal mortality rates decrease, and the population as a whole becomes better nourished and healthier.

"But men deserve our attention too. UNDP is striving to understand the culturally variable social relationships between men and women and the specific roles, responsibilities and expectations society assigns to each. Our 'gender in development' approach to sustainable human development emphasises the importance of understanding the diverse and complex roles of both genders within households."

"Finally, we must not overlook the role of children — as both beneficiaries and agents of sustainable human development. In many communities, the title of 'family' is only bestowed once children are born. While parents can mould their children's values and views, children can and do play important roles in helping to educate their parents. Children accept new ideas, such as concepts about environmental protection, and they bring these ideas home. Therefore, environmental education programmes directed at youth must be increased. Sustainable human development concepts must find their way into all subjects, levels and styles of education — formal or non-formal, distant or direct."

Aqaba hotels downgraded

(Continued from page 1)

competition, said the sources.

A Tourism Ministry official said: "We have had justifiable complaints from citizens, and foreigners concerning the poor services at these hotels, as well as the outrageous prices they charge for their non-existent facilities," said the official, adding that he hoped that Dr. Adwan's decision would receive positive feedback from the hotel proprietors and would serve as an incentive for them to reduce their prices and improve their facilities and services.

In addition, the sources said, the ministry is planning to implement this reclassification measure to include all the Kingdom's hotels in the near future.

Another senior official said tourism in Jordan was facing three main problems despite the fact that tourism revenues accounted for five per cent of the national revenues in 1993. Nazih Dabbas, head of the national team, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan's tourism lacks appropriate touristic services, a shortage of trained personnel and a lack of measures for developing domestic tourism.

Calling for a more active role for the private sector to stimulate tourism in Jordan, Dr. Dabbas said that in the light of regional political developments and with the prospects of peace more efforts will be needed to attract tourists to Jordan. Indeed, the touristic attractions in "Jordan and Palestine complement each other and the two areas are expected to be flooded by large numbers of tourists from the United States, Japan and Europe once stability and security have been established," he said.

He identified the areas that need urgent development as the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea and Aqaba.

Last year, Jordan earned JD390 million from tourism, up from JD314.3 million in 1992, and the development of touristic sites and services should earn the country even more in the coming years, he added.

GCC implies recognition of split Yemen

(Continued from page 1)

"Unity can never be imposed by military means," the GCC said at the end of the meeting in Abha.

The ministers warned the GCC would "adopt adequate steps towards the party which does not respect the ceasefire" as the war could also have "disastrous consequences" for their own countries.

The warning, together with the implicit recognition of the breakaway state, added to the political pressure on Sanaa to lay down its weapons.

Only Qatar voiced reservations on the statement issued by its GCC partners — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

"This position will lead to an escalation in the Yemen crisis and will not be to the interests of its stability," a Qatari delegate said, after Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jaber Al Thani flew home early "because of illness."

Southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh declared the YDR on May 21, two weeks after the outbreak of the north-south civil war, but it has so far failed to secure formal recognition from any country.

Mr. Beidh called Sunday for the GCC to adopt a firm stand because the war "threatens the stability and interests of the states" of the Arabian Peninsula.

Qatar is the only Gulf monarchy to have publicly denounced the declaration of independence, while Saudi Arabia has denied Sanaa's accusations that it has backed the south in the war.

Riyadh was the main sponsor of the ceasefire resolution adopted last Wednesday by the U.N. Security Council. It made no direct reference to Yemen's unity.

Saudi King Fahd urged both sides on Saturday to implement the U.N. call, but Sanaa has argued the conflict should never have been brought before the United Nations because it was an internal affair.

Yemen's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, a northerner, has warned that the war would drag on if the international community recognised the breakaway state.

"If the Arabs and the world want Yemenis to continue slaughtering each other for 100

years, they only have to recognise the secession," said Ghalib Ali Jamil.

Earlier Sunday, Sanaa said the ceasefire ordered by the Security Council was put on hold because of Saudi Arabia's reported warning of intervention in its war-ravaged neighbour.

Prince Saud Al Faisal, Saudi's foreign minister, was quoted Sunday by government-owned Arab news agencies as saying the GCC may act to end the war in Yemen.

"This conflict threatens the Gulf region with grave consequences. The GCC countries will find it necessary to take action toward this situation," Prince Saud was quoted as telling GCC foreign ministers meeting Saturday.

The Security Council resolution called for an immediate ceasefire between northern and southern Yemeni forces. The resolution was sponsored by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states.

Prince Saud's statement "was created a problem in adhering to the resolution," said Abdul Karim Al Eryani, Yemen's planning minister and a close adviser to Mr. Saleh.

"It's not an implied threat,

but an open threat," he told the Associated Press. "Now they seem to imply that they have other means to put an end to the fighting."

Mr. Eryani claimed that the northern-based government, which has resisted outside mediation of the conflict, had been on the verge of announcing acceptance of the U.N. resolution in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

"But now it's being put on hold, until we see what Faisal really means," he said, refusing to elaborate on the government's interpretation of the Saudi warning.

The north is highly suspicious of Saudi Arabia's intentions given Riyadh's historic opposition to Yemeni unity and numerous attempts over the years to thwart it by arming Yemeni tribes and bankrolling politicians.

The 1990 merger of north and South Yemen, shattered by the current civil war, established the Arab World's youngest democracy. It was believed to have come about despite resistance by Saudi Arabia, which apparently saw a unified, democratic Yemen as a threat to its own autocratic rule and traditional domination of the region.

Jordan denies Beidh's charge

(Continued from page 1)

The Kingdom has repeatedly reaffirmed its neutrality on the conflict but said it supports the unity of Yemen and its "legitimate government."

His Majesty King Hussein said during the early days of the war that the Kingdom will not mediate in the conflict unless its role was agreed to by both parties to it. He expressed readiness to extend humanitarian support for Yemen.

In their separate remarks,

Mr. Beidh and Mr. Attas also accused Iraq of sending weapons to Sanaa, whose war with Aden has produced no decisive military victory for either side in over four weeks of fierce fighting.

Northern leaders have accused Gulf Arab states of fuelling the war in a bid to prevent the creation of a strong Yemeni republic on their borders and as a punishment for Sanaa's rejection of the Gulf war that drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in 1991.

Group to counter land 'concessions'

(Continued from page 1)

dovish camp headed by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his deputy Yossi Beilin, both outspoken in favour of ceding land.

The movement has emerged from dissatisfaction at the ineffectiveness of the Likud leadership to rally public support against what is seen as a surrender to the Palestinians and from a growing mood on the Labour right that autonomy will lead inexorably to a Palestinian state.

More than a dozen Labour

and Likud parliamentarians, including ex-Justice Minister Dan Meridor, met secretly last week.

The organisers said that the movement would work in a first stage as a pressure group focusing on security concerns.

The Third Way has been encouraged by a recent opinion poll which found 63 per cent of Israelis opposed to further negotiations between Israel and the PLO to extend autonomy from Gaza and Jericho into heavily-populated areas of the West Bank.

Violence continues in occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians have killed about 1,000 fellow Palestinians during the intifada which erupted in December 1987. The Israeli army says most were not collaborators as claimed but criminals, prostitutes or vendetta victims.

Settlers block road

The latest confrontation between Jewish settlers and Palestinians in Jericho erupted Sunday over who could fly what flag where.

About 15 Jewish settlers, angered when Palestinian police banned them from driving through the autonomous town of Jericho with Israeli flags, set up their own roadblock outside of town forbidding

Palestinians from doing the same in an Israeli-held part of the West Bank.

They waved down Palestinian cars on the main north-south highway and confiscated any green, red, black and white Palestinian flags or pictures of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat, settlers said.

Israeli police moved in and, after a brief scuffle with the settlers, dispersed them and reopened the road.

The incident was one in a series of confrontations involving the Jewish settlers since the Palestinians began self-rule in Jericho last month.

Sunday's action came after the Palestinian police banned an Israeli car sporting the Israeli flag from driving through Jericho on Friday.

ITALIAN COMMERCIAL MISSION TO AMMAN

Grimex Srl: An Italian consulting company involved in promoting Italian firms in Italy and overseas, is proud to announce a new initiative. Grimex has organised a commercial mission in Amman, with the intention of promoting ITALIAN-JORDANIAN trade relationship.

Grimex announces that on June 20, 1994 there will be an opening session of this event.

The companies are specialised in the following fields:

SPARE PARTS FOR EARTH MOVING MACHINERY - MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (LIKE DENTAL X-RAY, HYGIENIC DISINFECTANTS) - READY MADE FASHIONS - ELECTRONIC SETS - AIR CONDITIONING - RADIO - TELEVISION - HIFI - MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS (LIKE SURGICAL NETTING) - LENSES AND GLASSES - MANUFACTURING OF MOLD EQUIPMENT - PRODUCTION OF HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL PUMPS - COMPANY INVOLVED IN PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL CONGRESSES ALL OVER THE WORLD - CHOCOLATE - COOKING EQUIPMENT - CATERING - SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE - GARMENTS FOR PERFUME SHOPS - CONSTRUCTION (RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL BUILDING) - HYDRAULIC AND ENGINEERING WORK - SEWAGE - WASTE AND SLUDGES EXPLOITATION - ELECTRICAL MATERIAL

If you are interested to join in this event wait for information which will be published in this newspaper about details for registration.

NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION
THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Lexi HADDADIN, soprano
accompanied by
Samia GHANNOUM, piano
and
Alla ROZUMIAK, violin

In a
VOCAL RECITAL

Tickets for JD 5 are available from:
- Babiche, tel. 661322
- Romero, tel. 644227
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 667620

The program includes songs, lieds and opera arias by:
Brahms, Schubert, Puccini, Strauss, Mozart and others.

Thursday, 9 June 1994, 8:00 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

ASEAN to propose refinancing trade, labour rights at ILO confab

BANGKOK (AFP) — East Asia's booming economies are to sponsor a resolution at the 81st annual International Labour Conference (ILO) conference on June 7-24, according to an ASEAN official said Sunday.

The resolution will speak with one voice on issues of trade and labour rights in the name of free trade and economic development.

At a General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ministerial meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco, developing nations strong attacked an attempt — led by the United States and France — to include labour rights in the new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

While some analysts saw the bid as a strong weapon to help poor paid workers and stop forced and child labour in Third World countries, many developing nations said it was a disguised form of protectionism.

The Marrakesh meeting agreed, however, that the issue of labour standards of social clauses spelling out workers' rights could be raised at a preparatory panel to launch the WTO, which is to replace GATT on Jan. 1.

Japan has \$106.9 b in foreign reserves

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's foreign exchange reserves rose \$2.34 billion in May to \$106.91 billion, rewriting a record high for the third straight month, the finance ministry said.

Dollar-buying by the Bank of Japan to check the yen's rapid rise was seen as responsible for the seventh straight monthly gain in foreign reserves, including convertible foreign currencies, gold and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Special Drawing Rights.

But, as is the custom, the ministry refused to give reasons for the increase but the central bank has actively stepped in the market in the past month as the yen-dollar rate moved wildly.

The ministry said Japan was believed to be the biggest holder of foreign exchange reserves, according to the latest comparable figures available.

At the end of March, Japan had reserves totalling \$101.7 billion, followed by \$84.8 billion for Germany, the ministry said.

It added that Taiwan also had \$84.8 billion at the end of January, compared with the March figure of \$78.7 billion for the United States.

South Korea's PC makers in trouble

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea's personal computer (PC) business is running into trouble, hit by slow demand and cut-throat competition from Taiwan and other Asian rivals.

Statistics show computer exports tumbled for the sixth consecutive month in April, dragging the value of overseas sales for the November-April period down 15.2 per cent to \$1.34 billion from \$1.59 billion for the previous comparable six-months.

The shipment of peripherals, a major export item, fell 11.9 per cent to \$846 million during the January-April period in 1994 from the corresponding period last year.

In the United States, South Korea's biggest overseas market, exports of peripherals plunged 20.6 per cent for the four months to April because of a price cut in U.S.-made goods and market penetration by Taiwan's lower-priced products.

But a spokesman for the Electronic Industries Association of Korea (EIAK) predicted domestic sales of PCs would perk up from this month, thanks to the ongoing economic recovery and increasing demand of PCs for business operations.

"The growth potential of the local market is very high, that's why foreign makers are eyeing South Korea," said Park Byung-Chul of the EIAK, adding that the EIAK predicted a 15 per cent growth in domestic sales this year.

He said PC exports had dropped because local manufacturers were now preparing to market more updated versions and turning away from highly competitive overseas markets to the more profitable domestic market.

"The had days will be over with the completion of our remodelling programme, which should help us regain competitiveness," Yoon Jong-Jin, a market analyst at Samsung Electronics Co., told to AFP.

Samsung Electronics, South Korea's top electronics maker, also saw its overseas computer sales fall in the past seven months, which Mr. Yoon called a transitional period during which the company was developing new models.

"Competition has forced us to shift from desktops to portable computers, which give higher margins," Mr. Yoon said, adding that Samsung's new note-book computers were selling well abroad, notably in the U.S. market.

But others like Trigem, which claims to be South Korea's most profitable PC maker, sounded a pessimistic tone, citing glutted overseas markets and mounting competition from Taiwan and other newly industrialised countries.

"Without a leapfrog in our technology level, South Korean products will be squeezed out," said No Soo-Hong, a Trigem manager.

He said a "strategic

alliance" was necessary among local firms to cut costs for developing technology and overseas marketing.

Local firms also face mounting foreign competition in their own turf. U.S. computer giant IBM Inc. and Hewlett Packard Inc. have all lowered prices of their PCs by 30 to 40 per cent in the past six months.

The price slashing by foreign competition heaped added pressure on small local firms, which have been plagued by financial difficulties amid a tight government monetary policy.

A government figure put the share of foreign makers in the domestic market at three per cent last year, but industry analysts said the real figure was 15 per cent and up.

They also noted that foreign firms took home 12 per cent of sales revenue from South Korean companies in patent royalties.

Despite the setback in the computer business, South Korean electronics have sold well abroad, helped by a strong Japanese yen.

In the first three months to March, electronic exports amounted to \$6.17 billion, up 21.4 per cent from a year ago, led by soaring sales in semiconductors.

46% of Europeans say single currency unlikely by 2000

LONDON (AFP) — Europeans are doubtful there will be a single currency by the end of the century, but strongly favour EU enlargement, according to an opinion poll across member states.

The survey carried out for eight European newspapers in advance of European elections on June 9 underlines how German voters seem to be joining traditionally Euro-sceptic electorates in Denmark and Britain in their antipathy towards closer integration along the lines of the Maastricht treaty.

Only eight per cent of respondents in west Germany and seven per cent of those in east Germany believed that a single currency was "very likely" in at least three European Union (EU) member countries by the end of the century.

Overall, 47 per cent of Europeans thought a single currency was likely by 2000, with 46 per cent saying it was unlikely.

Voters in Britain, who appear least in favour of the Maastricht treaty, hold the strongest belief that a single currency will be established by 2000.

A total of 64 per cent of British respondents said a single currency was either "very likely" or "fairly likely" by then, compared with figures below 40 per cent in Germany, Denmark, Spain and Italy.

The survey reveals a deep split on the desirability of fulfilling the Maastricht plan for European Union.

Respondents in Britain, Denmark, east and west Germany said by a roughly two-to-one margin that they were against the Maastricht arrangements, supporting a "looser" Europe.

Firmer support for Maastricht came from Italy, Spain, Belgium, and the Netherlands, all in favour of closer integration by margins of two-to-one or more.

On enlargement, 79 per cent of the EU electorate favoured the planned extension of the EU to Sweden, Finland, Norway and Austria on Jan. 1, with nine per cent voicing opposition.

Fifty per cent, with 30 per cent against, backed membership by former communist countries, with support greatest in Italy and east Germany.

India seeks quality, not quantity, in foreign aid

NEW DELHI (AP) — India will seek quality rather than quantity in foreign assistance, donors held their annual review of aid to New Delhi last month, officials say.

The focus is not really on the quality of the commitment, Finance Secretary K. S. Ahluwalia told reporters Friday. "The emphasis is on the kind of commitment."

Ahluwalia, the finance ministry's top civil servant, said it was not soon to say how much would be pledged by donor nations and multilateral institutions at this year's meeting, the main part of which will be held in Paris on July 1 and 2.

Indian officials have been consulting with the World Bank and are about to start preliminary talks with donor countries.

Western diplomats say the level of offerings this year is unlikely to be very different from last year, when India obtained pledges of \$7.4 billion.

Mr. Ahluwalia said India actually took up only \$4.2 billion of that money, although it had not cut aid spending.

He said India's strong foreign exchange reserves meant the country no longer needed the fast-disbursing loans which helped haul New Delhi out of a balance of payments crisis in mid-1991.

At that time, India's foreign currency reserves had dwindled to just \$1.0 billion — barely enough for two weeks of imports. Now they have climbed to more than \$19 billion.

Senior finance ministry official N.K. Singh said India only used some \$600 million of the \$2.3 billion pledged last year in fast-disbursing loans.

"There is a qualitative change in the external balance of payments position," Mr. Ahluwalia said. "We will not be asking for fast-disbursing assistance."

Instead, officials said India would be looking for more medium-term aid to the best terms available.

"We'll be seeking as much as possible of the grant and IDA — (International Development Association) type commitments, and longer maturity," Mr. Singh said. The IDA is the soft-loan arm of the World Bank.

For the first time, India will also be using the forum to woo private capital as well as official aid.

It is the first country to involve private investors in its annual aid meeting, formerly known as the Aid India Consortium but renamed this year as the India Development Forum.

"It represents the kind of transition we're trying to bring about in the economy," Mr. Singh said.

The government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao has brought in sweeping reforms over the past three years to chip away at four decades of socialist controls.

Mr. Ahluwalia said capital

flows to the developing world had changed dramatically to include much more private money. "We want to be an attractive destination for those flows," he said.

Capital inflows to India in the 1993/94 (April/March) financial year included \$600 million in direct foreign investment and \$4.0 billion in portfolio investment, he added.

The format of the Paris meeting has been changed to include a special session on July 2 with potential foreign investors, from bankers to businessmen.

Those expected to attend include major banks like Merrill Lynch, Citibank, J.P. Morgan and Nomura, and companies such as Suzuki, General Electric Co. and ATT.

Mr. Ahluwalia said the private sector could help develop many sectors of the Indian economy, irrespective of its own profit motives. Infrastructural projects such as telecommunications and power are already attracting major investor interest.

But he said India still needed steady aid flows to back up its own government funding in areas such as rural and social development, and for infrastructural improvements offering only a long-term payoff.

Mr. Ahluwalia said he did not immediately expect private sector capital to replace any aid flows to India. "At present we view it as supplementing (aid) — in future we'll see," he said.

IMF chief endorses Philippine programme

MANILA (R) — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Michel Camdessus has endorsed the Philippines' new three-year economic programme and referred it to the IMF executive board for final approval, central bank officials said.

Bank governor Gabriel Sison told reporters Saturday he was optimistic the IMF governing body would approve the programme at its regular meeting in the last week of this month due to the Philippines' strong first quarter economic performance.

Gross national product for the period grew by 4.84 per cent, topping projections of a 3.5 per cent growth and the weak growth of 0.27 per cent during the same period last year.

Approval of the programme would enable Manila to draw about \$650 million in fresh funds.

Officials said they were considering asking the IMF to relax restrictive monetary targets under the programme to take into account possible higher economic growth this year.

Economic Planning Secretary Celito Habito said that, with 4.5 per cent growth "well within reach," adjustments of the monetary targets were necessary to make sure they did not stifle economic growth.

The monetary targets under the programme were based on a low-growth scenario of 3.5 per cent, officials said.

Kenya's economy declines for fifth straight year

NAIROBI (R) — Drought and poor economic policies forced Kenya's economic growth to decline for a fifth year in 1993 but recovery was now expected after good seasonal rains and reforms, planners have said.

Vice-President George Saitoti told reporters that the slowdown in economic growth was not as pronounced as in the previous two years when there was prolonged drought, macro-economic problems and a big decline in real investment.

Mr. Saitoti was launching the government's 1994 economic survey. The survey said real gross domestic product (GDP) eased to a dismal 0.1 per cent in 1993 from 0.4 per cent in 1992, some 2.3 per cent in 1991 and 4.0 per cent in 1990.

"Prolonged drought which sharply reduced agricultural output, low aggregate domestic demand which resulted in sluggish growth in output of manufacturing and foreign exchange shortage in the first half of 1993 accounted for slowed growth," Mr. Saitoti said.

"High inflation principally as a result of severe drought, excessive growth in money supply, massive depreciation of the Kenya shilling (currency) and liberalisation policies pursued by the government were the other crucial factors," Mr. Saitoti added.

The agricultural sector's real GDP grew by negative 4.1 per cent compared to negative 3.7 per cent in 1992. Yield of major food crops and key cash crops like coffee were seen lower.

The survey said growth in the agriculture sector was hampered by capricious weather, rising input prices that led to reduced use of fertilisers, delayed payments to farmers by state companies, poor price incentives to some major crops and poor quality seeds.

Mr. Saitoti said the government had liberalised foreign exchange restrictions, abolished import licensing, removed price controls particu-

larly on maize, sugar and wheat and launched tighter controls in the financial management system to right imbalances.

He said widespread rains in the second quarter of 1994 ended drought and freeing of exchange and trade laws meant increased investor confidence. Easier access by exporters and farmers to foreign exchange "which should help enhance production in all sectors."

Mr. Saitoti projected the economy would recover strongly and grow by around 3.0 per cent in 1994. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has previously said the economy needs a growth rate of 7-8 per cent to create jobs and ensure social stability.

The survey said, despite adverse publicity by the international media, the number of tourists to Kenya rose to 826,000 in 1993 from 782,000 in 1992. But foreign exchange earnings from tourism were posted at 1,222 billion Kenyan pounds (\$365.77 million).

Andy Capp

OKAY, THERE'S FORT ZINDERNEUF! I NEED ONE VOLUNTEER TO GO AHEAD, AND BE THE FIRST TO SURRENDER.

What's New

CH, WE COULD BE SO HAPPY IF YOU COULD MEET FOR ONLY JUST FIVE MINUTES EVERY DAY.

What's New

NOW, AFTER YEARS OF MARRIED LIFE, WE FIND IT RATHER TAME, BUT WITH A DIFFERENT MEANING, WE ARE SAYING JUST THE SAME!

THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen

"You look great in a swimsuit. Your freckles make you look like a big chocolate chip cookie!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BASAH
NIRPT
TIPOLE
LEBALT

What's the answer? (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: WHISK EMPTY OCCULT DOUBLY
Answer: Why the quail never got married — SHE WAS TOO 'PICKY'.

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword

by Ronald C. Hirschfeld

ACROSS
1 Continental prefix
5 Dutch language of a kind
9 Sully expression
13 Malay vessel
14 Skin problem
15 Redox
16 Netherlands city
18 Copal, e.g.
19 Bay State
21 Wife of Saturn
22 Clear a tape
23 Abrupt recovery
25 Badger State
26 Author Bagnold
30 Cherry brandy
31 Actress Novak
32 Housing for a certain antenna
33 Inquire
34 Soviet fighter plane
35 Albanian money
36 European river
37 Kind of salad
39 Executed
40 Course
41 Volunteer State
43 Amphiprism
44 Film award
45 Track deal
46 Tattered State
51 Ungulate mammal
52 These in authority
54 Pool person
55 European river
56 Facility
57 King of Hong Kong
58 Ruler
59 Philippine trees

DOWN
2 A to Z
3 Pro
4 Peddled more goods
5 "Buba"
6 Rock group
7 Home of Disneyland
8 Privates
9 Make believe
10 Evils
11 Las Vegas
12 Ring count
15 Prepare laundry
17 Glimpse
20 Tooty
23 Respond
24 Vase handles
25 Compare
26 "What I say"
27 Wise lawyer
28 Untruth
31 Cherry brandy
32 Tossant, e.g.
35 Untruth
40 Not working
42 Perfumed packet
43 Bank or Lugo
45 Toledo, for one
46 Alliance acronym
47 Kind of tournament
48 Singer McIntire
49 Sports org.
50 Chen's musing
51 Sympathetic sound
53 Of course!

كنا في الحفل

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two Gazans get taste of Palestinian justice

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Two cousins who insulted and assaulted a Palestinian police officer have become the first Gazans, to taste the justice meted out by the new authorities. The pair — who refused to show their car papers, shouted at the officer and grabbed him by the collar — were jailed for six months. The policemen had to be rescued by colleagues. Palestinian military prosecutor Major Ahmad Libayed asked the military court in Khan Younis for "very severe sentences to dissuade other Palestinians from such acts." Judge Abdul Karim Masri sent Nafez and Ibrahim Kulam, 22 and 23, to Khan Younis jail on Wednesday, police officials said Sunday.

Neo-fascists in Italy cabinet upset Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Sunday it had pointedly refused to congratulate Italy's prime minister on his election "because of worry over the appointment of neo-fascist cabinet ministers." Their election and participation in the government is certainly something very problematic in our view," Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin told army radio. "We didn't respond as we generally respond, sending a congratulatory note to the newly elected prime minister and his government, something that in and of itself is significant." Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's cabinet includes five ministers from the neo-fascist National Alliance movement whose core party is the Italian Social Movement (MSI). Three of the five National Alliance cabinet ministers are from the MSI, which traces its roots to Benito Mussolini, Italy's wartime dictator and an ally of Nazi Germany. Mr. Beilin said Israel declined to send a cultural delegation to Italy last week and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres would summon ministry officials to a meeting this week to decide on further action. He said Israel was obligated to protest at the cabinet make-up even though Italy's foreign minister had recently told U.S. Jewish leaders the government would be Italy's most pro-Israeli ever.

Afghans rescue abducted Iranian diplomat

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan security forces have rescued an Iranian diplomat abducted here four days earlier by unidentified gunmen, official and diplomatic sources said Sunday. Mahdi Mashaekhi, 31, was grabbed by two armed Afghans while driving in his car through Kabul's western residential district of Khushal Khan Mina on Wednesday. The abductors drove him towards the northwestern mountains at gunpoint, apparently to demand a hefty ransom from the Iranian embassy. But the security forces raided their hideout and arrested the abductors, the sources said. The diplomat has been rescued in "good health" and the Foreign Ministry handed him over to the Iranian embassy on Saturday, the sources said. The identity of the kidnappers was not yet known but Iranian sources described them as simple "hooligans" who had no political affiliation, adding that the kidnapping did not appear politically motivated.

Toll of Indonesians in Haj rises over 500

JAKARTA (AFP) — The death toll of Indonesian pilgrims making the Haj to Saudi Arabia this year has risen to 529, with most of those dying of health problems, a Religious Affairs Ministry official said Sunday. Ministry spokesman Ema said that heart and lung diseases along with heat stroke were the main killers, with most victims more than 60 years old. Seven Indonesians were among 270 people killed in a stampede in Mecca late last month. An estimated 160,000 Indonesians made the pilgrimage this year. Officials said 122,886 Indonesians made the Haj last year, when 394 of them died. The government of Indonesia, where 90 per cent of the population of 186 million follow Islam, making it the world's largest Muslim nation, organises an all-inclusive yearly pilgrimage package for its citizens.

Israeli gunsmith offers Palestinians weapons

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The biggest gunsmith in Jerusalem is offering self-defence weapons such as tear-gas pistols to Palestinians who are not allowed to carry "real" arms. Itzik Mizrahi, 49, who owns the "Magnum 88" shop in West Jerusalem, has advertised in the Palestinian press of East Jerusalem. "About 15 retailers contacted me but I still have no orders," Mr. Mizrahi told AFP. He said the pistols at \$35 a piece in quantities of 100. Mr. Mizrahi expects fighting between Palestinian factions during autonomy for his business to boom. "They don't have the right to buy real guns so the Palestinians need something to defend themselves, even if the weapon is only really a toy," Mr. Mizrahi has already seen his sales leap since the intifada began in December 1987 as Israelis rushed to buy personal arms. An Israeli who has served in the army and does not have a criminal record can easily obtain a gun permit while Palestinians and Arab-Israelis who fear for their lives are limited to defensive items such as sprays and clubs.

Police violently disperse Djibouti demonstration

DJIBOUTI (AFP) — Djibouti police violently dispersed a demonstration Sunday in the Afar-majority district of Arhib in Djibouti. Police used tear-gas and an AFP correspondent on the scene heard shots being fired. The Association for Human Rights and Freedom reported witnesses as saying there were "many demonstrators wounded." No official report of wounded has been published. The crowd was demonstrating at the destruction of makeshift houses by police over the past few days in Arhiba. According to the human rights organisation, more than 300 people have been left "homeless and dispossessed of anything which might be useful to them." Several demonstrators were arrested and taken to the police station at Nagade, 10 kilometres southeast of Djibouti.

Qadhafi meets slain Briton's mother

TUNIS (R) — The mother of a British policewoman who was shot dead near the Libyan embassy in London met Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and said she hoped her daughter's death would not keep the two countries apart, the official Libyan news agency JANA said on Saturday. "I hope that the two countries will soon get together and relations between (Libya) and Britain will return as they were in the past," Queenie Fletcher, mother of policewoman Yvonne, was quoted as saying after she took part in a rally alongside Colonel Qadhafi. Yvonne Fletcher was on duty on April 17, 1984 during a demonstration by Libyan students opposed to Col. Qadhafi. She was killed by a burst of gunfire apparently directed from an embassy window. Eleven students were wounded. "I would wish to say I do not want the death of my daughter to be used to punish the Arab Libyan people through imposed sanctions," JANA quoted Ms. Fletcher as saying. The agency said she was on a three-day visit in Libya.

Dr. Luma Shawa
Member of the Royal College
of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists
of Britain

announces the opening of her
obstetrics, gynaecology and fetal medi-
cine clinic at:

81 Ibn Khaldoun St.
(Al Khaldi Hospital St.)
Tel. 619530

Talks on comprehensive
Bosnia truce called off

GENEVA (Agencies) — The United Nations on Sunday called off scheduled talks on a comprehensive ceasefire after the Bosnian government said it would not take part unless all Serbs withdrew from a U.N.-declared military exclusion zone in east Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The talks were cancelled by U.N. Special Representative to the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi, his spokesman Michael Williams said.

"There will be no further talks or meeting this afternoon," said Mr. Williams, adding: "We will be returning to our hotels and making arrangements for our return to Zagreb."

The largely-Muslim Bosnian government delegation had earlier refused to take part in the talks, saying some Serbs still remained within the three-kilometre exclusion zone around the besieged town of Gorazde in contravention of earlier agreements.

Mr. Williams said earlier Sunday the United Nations was getting increasingly impatient and irritated by the continued delay in the ceasefire talks.

"We can't play this game indefinitely... if the parties are not willing to be present there is a limit to how long we can

stay around," said Mr. Williams.

Mr. Williams said that the U.N. was aware that a handful of Serbs was occupying strategically unimportant positions on a promontory just inside the exclusion zone around Gorazde.

"There is one position on the west bank northwest of the town where there is a Serb position straddling the three-kilometres. There are some Serbs on that position... How they got there in the first place I don't know but (General Michael Rose, commander of the U.N. forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina) thinks it will be very, very difficult to evacuate."

Mr. Akashi had tried for four days to convene the Geneva talks involving all warring parties — Croats, Muslims and Serbs.

Reports that about 150 armed Serbs had withdrawn from the U.N.-declared safe area and military exclusion zone were rejected Saturday and Sunday by Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic who heads the Bosnian government delegation.

Mr. Ganic said the "Belgrade regime did not show any interest for political talks for a political solution. They are

here to try to freeze their territories."

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said meanwhile heavy weapons should be banned from almost all of Bosnia to restore the military balance between Muslims and their heavily-armed Serb foes.

Mr. Izetbegovic, at a public discussion in Sarajevo with three U.S. senators, urged the creation of a 100-kilometre heavy weapons exclusion zone radiating from the heart of Bosnia.

The zone, centred northwest of Sarajevo, would cover most of the former Yugoslav republic's territory and include regions where Muslims and Serbs are still fighting.

"If we had a 100-kilometre zone then we would have a free Bosnia," Mr. Izetbegovic added and said Muslims would propose the idea to international mediators.

The United Nations created 20-kilometre heavy weapons exclusion zones around Sarajevo and Gorazde earlier this year.

Their extension would favour Muslims over the Bosnian Serb army (BSA) which has relied on its huge superiority in tanks and artillery to take control of 70 per cent of Bosnia.

Government promises
to study doctors' call

By Ica Wabbe
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A delegation of doctors Sunday met with Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar and Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas to discuss Ministry of Health doctors' demands for better pay.

The delegation included physicians from the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) council and a Ministry of Health committee.

Head of the JMA, Dr. Ishak Maraga, told the Jordan Times after the meeting that "there has been an expression of sympathy from the ministers towards the request of the doctors and they have sincerely promised to constantly follow the matter up and minimise the time usually taken to approve the demands that are put forward to the prime ministry."

At the same time, Dr. Maraga said, the ministers hoped the doctors will "tolerate and accept the unavoidable delay that the procedures usually take, but again promising to do it in the shortest possible time."

The details of the meeting will be discussed Monday (today) by the JMA and Ministry of Health doctors to adopt "suitable decisions which can lead to the fulfilment of their demands and without jeopardising the health of citizens and the reputation of the country."

Saturday's two-hour stoppage did not have any negative impact on the patients, said Dr. Maraga, as the doctors treated all emergencies and "the time was short."

36 Palestinian intelligence
officers head for Jericho

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thirty-six Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officers headed for the West Bank town of Jericho on Sunday to form the first unit of a Palestinian intelligence apparatus in the autonomous territory, PLO officials said.

The officers, all of them former members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), the military wing of the PLO, will take up office in Jericho with the main task of preventing sabotage against Palestinian self-rule, the PLO officials said.

Omar Khatib, deputy chief of the Palestinian embassy in Amman, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that the group would serve as an intelligence force "to prevent sabotage against the Palestinian autonomy as well as espionage and rebellions."

The head of the group, which has undergone training in intelligence gathering and anti-sabotage measures, was identified as Tawfiq Al Tirawi, a former officer of the PLA. He was quoted as saying that the force's job was to "defend and ensure Palestinian security."

Mr. Tirawi, 47, is a native of the West Bank town of Tihbeh. The group had originally 25 members and was supposed to

While no further interruption of work is considered and no date for further steps has been set, Dr. Maraga said he hoped "we will not need to take further measures to see our demands met."

The deputy prime minister stressed that no one can give a fixed date for the resolution of the problem but "promised to do it in the shortest possible time and to give the matter his personal attention," said the JMA head.

The doctors are willing to wait for the implementation of the decision taken by the government until next year, he said, providing that measures are taken soon.

"They (doctors) do not insist to have it done for the 1994 financial year, but hope to hear (of a) decision of approval during the next few weeks," Dr. Maraga said, stressing that the physicians are aware such a decision needs to be discussed from a legal point of view, has to concord with the civil services regulations and that the Ministry of Finance will have to decide that the government is able to put up with the consequences of approval.

The doctors have presented a "simplified system," approved by the Ministry of Health and the Civil Service Commission, by which Ministry of Health doctors would have allowances equal to those of their colleagues in other medical sectors in the country.

Minister of Health Malhas approves of the doctors' demands, according to the JMA head, and "promised to exert all efforts towards their follow up and approval."

U.S. may
seek
non-U.N.
embargo
on N. Korea

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

The United States may seek to impose economic sanctions against North Korea on its own or with allies if the United Nations Security Council rejects them, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday.

"That's entirely possible," Mr. Perry said on NBC Television's Meet the Press programme when asked if the United States would press for sanctions outside the U.N.

"We have discussions under way with our allies about sanctions," Mr. Perry said. "Even modest sanctions will be very painful for North Korea," considering the weakness of its economy, he said.

China, a member of the Security Council and a sometime ally of North Korea, has been reluctant to go along with sanctions proposed by the United States as a way of pressuring North Korea into complying with U.N. strictures on development of nuclear weapons.

North Korea has warned that sanctions would be regarded as an act of war.

But Mr. Perry said that while the United States was concerned with the North Korean statements and its military posturing, it was not expecting war.

"I do not think we are facing imminent danger of a military confrontation," he said.

"We will not provoke a war," he said. "But at the same time we will not invite a war by not being prepared."

"We have been building up our forces over the last six months," Mr. Perry said. "It is my judgment that we have adequate forces at this time to defend South Korea."

"Any war that is started will have devastating consequences on North Korea," he said.

The goal of sanctions being discussed by Japan, South Korea and the United States would be to pressure North Korea to allow international inspectors to determine whether Pyongyang had diverted weapons-grade plutonium.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said last week it could no longer guarantee that the fuel from the Yongbyon nuclear plant had been properly disposed of. "As we apply sanctions, the North Korean economy, as you know is in desperate condition, and even modest economic sanctions will be very painful to North Korea," Mr. Perry said.

North Korea on Sunday restated its rejection of the U.S. demands.

North Korea "does not have the intention to threaten an unjustifiable demand... and cannot tolerate our sovereignty encroached upon," said North Korean commentary carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Iraq introduces
Sharia punishment
to prevent crimes

BAGHDAD (Agencies)

The Iraqi government, in a bid to curb a surge in crime in Iraq, has opted to apply Islamic Sharia law on theft and cut off the hand or foot of thieves, armed robbers face the death penalty.

State-run newspapers on Sunday carried a decree by the ruling Revolution Command Council (RCC) saying amputation would be used against anyone found guilty of stealing anything worth more than 5,000 dinars — about \$12 on the open market.

Babil, the newspaper of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday, meanwhile, urged the government to reintroduce a law allowing a man to kill an adulterous wife or sister without fear of prosecution.

RCC decrees called for anyone convicted of stealing to have their right hand amputated.

Thieves convicted for a second time risk amputation of "the left leg from the foot joint."

"The sentence will be death instead of amputation if the crime of theft is perpetrated by a person, openly or discreetly carrying a weapon, or in cases in which death results from the crime," the decree said.

Babil praised the move and said it should be implemented swiftly.

"We wish... the government would reconsider a law we were forced to abolish before the 30-state aggression (1991 Gulf war)... which grants a person the right to kill his sister, wife etc. without being pursued by law courts, if they commit adultery or any immoral crime," the newspaper added in a front-page article under the pseudonym Abu Sarhan.

Abu Sarhan said Iraq had had to annul the law because of what he described as "the Western pressure for the so-called human rights."

Abu Sarhan urged the authorities not to hesitate in translating the new measures

into action. "What is important in my view is an accurate implementation by the specialised authorities of this decree," he wrote.

No official figures are available on crime in Iraq, but reports of theft and robbery are rife on the streets of Baghdad.

Prior to the imposition of the U.N. Gulf crisis trade blockade, Baghdad was one of the safest capitals in the region. Car theft, almost non-existent, has now become endemic.

The sanctions, imposed to punish Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have caused widespread deprivation, forcing many people to steal to make ends meet.

The tough ruling was President Saddam's second drastic measure in three days since he took personal charge of the cabinet on Monday.

On Friday, the government ordered up to one year in jail for any trader or retailer violating state-controlled prices and said the ruling Baath Party could impose such sentences.

President Saddam took over as prime minister in the wake of steep price rises and a collapse in the value of the dinar against the U.S. dollar.

Iraq, while predominantly Muslim, is a secular state. But President Saddam since last year has been waging a spiritual and religious campaign that has included making teaching of the Koran compulsory for schoolchildren.

Crime and official corruption have soared as Iraq's economy has crumbled under the weight of U.N. sanctions.

Last year, 36,000 cars were stolen and few recovered, according to newspaper accounts.

The sanctions ban most trade with Iraq, depriving it of much-needed oil revenue.

Baghdad says the sanctions, which have impoverished the nation of 18 million, are responsible for the deaths through hardship of more than 400,000 people, mostly children and the elderly.

Veterans reenact
D-Day jumping

SAINT-MERE-EGLISE, France (Agencies)

U.S. veterans parachuted over Normandy on Sunday, reenacting the daring assault they made 50 years ago to capture the first French town and block Nazi reinforcements on D-Day.

About 500 U.S. and French paratroopers followed, jumping over the pasture of grass and yellow buttercups, mushy after several days of rain. Orange flags marked the landing targets.

The jump, televised live in France and the United States, was one of the highlights of marathon celebrations on both sides of the Channel marking the 50th anniversary of the start of the liberation of France.

One veteran's parachute tangled and he began falling fast but he managed to deploy his reserve chute and landed safely, witnesses said.

Another had blood on his face from a cut eyebrow but was otherwise unharmed and in high spirits, a military spokesman said.

Watched by tens of thousands of sightseers, all 40 veterans of the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions aged between 68 and 83 jumped near the village of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, which they seized early on June 6, 1944.

First to land was James Rizzuto, 69, of Waterford, Michigan, who served with the 508th parachute infantry regiment of the 82nd airborne. He wore a World War II tan uniform with a big U.S. flag on his right sleeve.

"I wanted to do this for those who did not come back. I did it as a reminder. I accomplished what I already did 50 years ago," he said.

Dubbed "les papys sauteurs" (the jumping granddads) by French television, the veterans jumped four at a time.

Their D-day mission was to cut the main road from the port of Cherbourg and prevent German reinforcements from reaching the landing zone. But many landed far off course and were shot, drowned or captured.

On Sunday, American soldiers and French firemen were on hand to disentangle the veterans from their multicoloured, rectangular parachutes

after World War II-vintage C-47, twin Otter and Dakota planes dropped them.

They were followed by 600 serving members of their divisions flown in from North Carolina and Kentucky to Alconbury air base in England before flying south across the Channel on the same route as their elders.

The drop started at 2:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) when a Dakota craft, a civilian version of the C-47s used in 1944, passed from clouds into a patch of clear blue sky 1,100 metres over a field about three kilometres west of Sainte-Mere-Eglise.

A yellow and red parachute, the first of the multi-coloured rectangular chutes the veterans used or better control, appeared followed by six others.

The veterans came down into a grassy but wet and muddy field, which softened their landings. They were cheered by a crowd of thousands watching from about one-kilometre.

While the veterans jumped, 12 allied leaders were sailing for France aboard a flagbedecked royal yacht, retracing the voyage of the world's biggest seaborne invasion force that led to the liberation of Western Europe 50 years ago.

They were to join French President Francois Mitterrand and tens of thousands of veterans on Monday for the central commemorative ceremony at Omaha Beach, scene of the worst carnage on D-Day.

Queen Elizabeth's yacht Britannia, surrounded by an armada of warships, yachts, speedboats and dinghies left the British navy base of Portsmouth amid prayers, pomp and ceremony.

About 40 miles out to sea in mid-channel, veterans aboard the royal yacht cast wreaths into the water and a vintage Lancaster bomber dropped two million poppies — symbols of the war dead to the British. U.S. President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary were welcomed aboard the George Washington with the six British traditionally accorded the American commander-in-chief along with the bosun's announcement: "United States arriving."

Malaysia's king
celebrates 72nd
birthday

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's king celebrated his 72nd birthday Saturday with a tea party and awards for people who have contributed to the nation. In a speech, the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar Abdul Rahman said participation by Malaysian troops in United Nations peacekeeping activities in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia and other countries "has enhanced Malaysia's image as a country fighting for universal human rights."

It was Tuanku Jaafar's first birthday as king. He was elected and sworn in as the king for a five-year term in April. Nine Malaysian states have traditional rulers or sultans who are heads of their states. They meet every five years to elect one of themselves to be national king for a five-year term. At the end of the term, or if a monarch dies in office, another is elected. The system was introduced by the government after independence from Britain in 1957 so that the monarchy system would be preserved. Among those who received awards from the king was Thai Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Voranet Apicabari, who received the Pingat Panglima Setia Mahkota (Commander of the Most Esteemed Order of the Crown of Malaysia). The award was given to Gen. Voranet for his role in promoting closer ties between the two countries.

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